The National

Future Farmer

February-March, 1982

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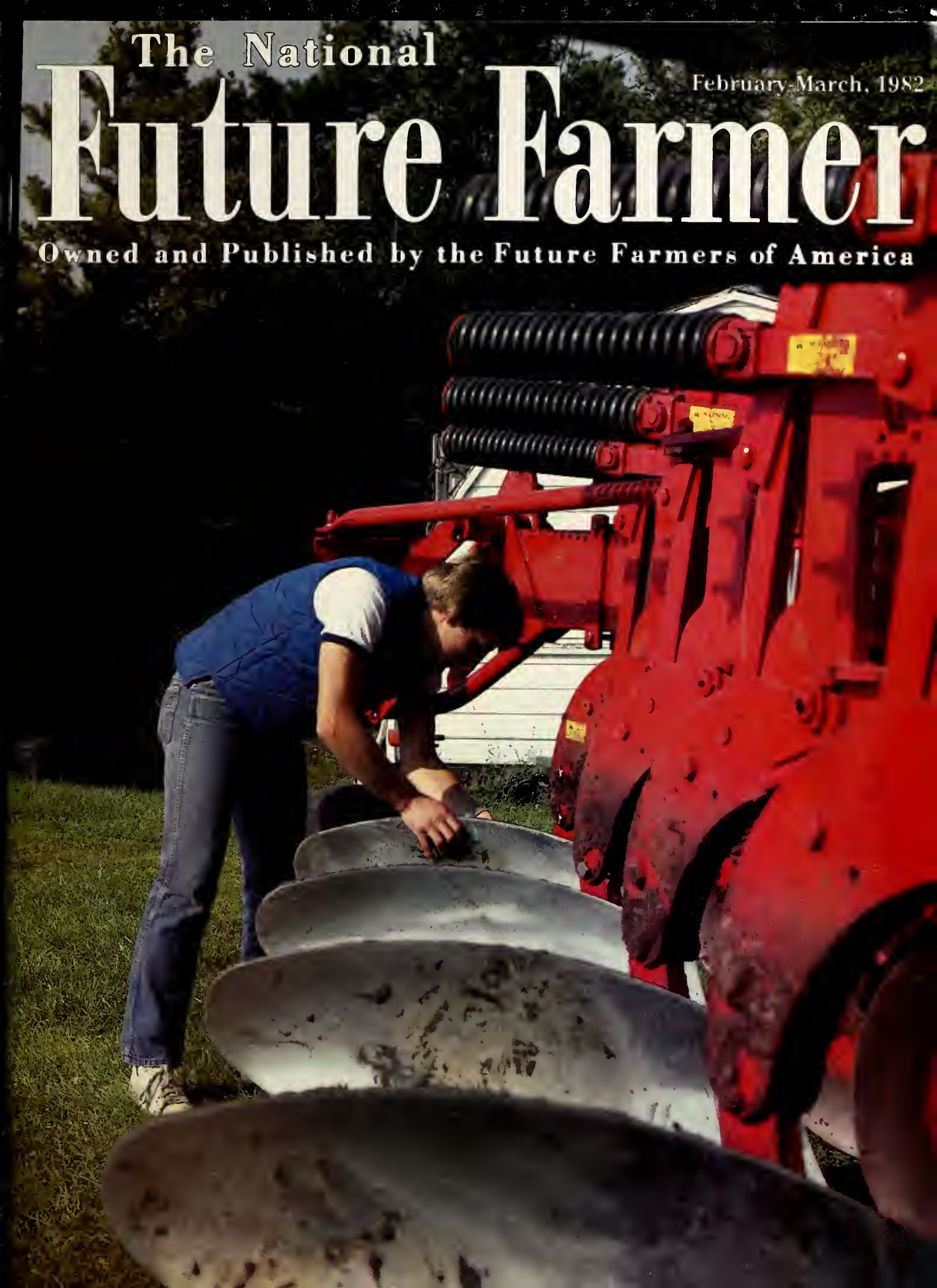

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The National
Future Farmer
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February-March, 1982
Volume 30 Number 3
ISSN 0027-9315

A Word With The Editor

The cost of putting the FFA magazine in your mailbox was increased 100 percent with this issue. And with the budget for publishing your magazine already strained because of previous big increases in the cost of both postage and paper, as well as some other costs, your organization is hard pressed to find the ways and means to pay the increased expense of publishing a magazine.

In short, the big increase in postage cost came about when price increases scheduled through 1987 became effective immediately. The U.S. Postal Service took this action after Congress failed to appropriate money for the Postal Service as they had in the past. In fact, Congress ordered the Postal Service to adjust preferred mail rates for not-for-profit organizations this year instead of through 1987. Similar increases will be reflected in certain other types of mailing sent by your national FFA organization. Your Board of Directors and the National FFA Officers will confront these issues when they meet the last week of January and begin preliminary work on the 1982-83 budget.

Has your chapter ever been represented at the Washington Conference Program? If not, this may be the year to send one of your chapter officers. A renewed emphasis is being placed on having as many chapters from as many states as possible represented. Since many conferences do fill up early, the sooner you get your application in, the better. A special brochure describing the conferences will be mailed to your chapter in March. See FFA News Briefs, page 6, for conference dates.

Thanks from FFA to Mr. John W. Bunten, a member of the FFA Board of Directors, who retired on January 8 after nearly 40 years of service to vocational education. Mr. Bunten was also a program specialist for vocational education in the U.S. Department of Education. He first served on the FFA Board in 1954-55 when he was state FFA advisor and state supervisor of vocational agriculture in Nevada. He returned to the Board of Directors when he was employed by the Department of Education and was given responsibilities for agriculture. Our best wishes go to Mr. and Mrs. Bunten as they move into retirement with plans to go West at some future date.

Wilson Carnes

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Our Cover

Bryan Sommer prepares farm equipment for tillage work at his farm near Fairfax, Minnesota. The 20-year-old FFA member typifies this issue's emphasis on crops and ag careers: Bryan began farming on his own during his junior year of high school and recently went on to become the FFA's national Crop Proficiency winner. Our visit with him begins on page 34.

Cover photo by Michael Wilson

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Agriculture

LOOKING AHEAD

COAST TO COAST, U.S. FARMLAND values as of February of 1981 averaged $796 per acre, slightly over four times as much as the $196 per acre average in 1970, say agricultural extension specialists at North Carolina State University. The USDA says over the past decade, nominal land values in the United States have increased at an average compound rate of 13.8 percent per year. "Real" farmland value (adjusted for inflation) increased during this ten-year period at an average rate of about 5.2 percent per year.

ANOTHER EXPORT RECORD: U.S. agricultural exports in fiscal 1981 totaled $43.8 billion, setting a record for the twelfth straight year, according to a USDA official. Agricultural exports ran $26.7 billion higher than imports, also a record. The record $43.8 billion is due to higher unit prices for U.S. products and adds up to an 8 percent increase from the year-earlier record. The leading dollar earner—feeds and grain—had sales of $21.7 billion, up 18 percent from 1980.

FARMERS MAY BE ABLE TO HARVEST ALFALFA in the rain within a few years, according to engineers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. They've spent more than a decade refining an alfalfa-processing system which not only will help farmers beat the weather, but will also produce a protein-rich concentrate suitable for livestock or humans. Development has gone far enough for equipment manufacturers to develop commercial models, possibly within five years.

OUR BEST CUSTOMERS: Eleven countries imported at least a billion dollars of U.S. farm output in 1980, compared with a mere ten years ago when only Japan imported that much from the United States, says a report in the *World Development Letter*. Japan still leads the U.S. farm export market with over $6 billion worth. Other members of the billion dollar club include (in order of import value) Netherlands, Mexico, China, Canada, West Germany, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Italy and the Soviet Union, at $1 billion, although that figure has likely increased with the lifting of the partial grain embargo this past year.

MORE AND MORE FARMERS are leasing their equipment instead of buying. According to a report in USDA's *Agricultural Outlook*, a survey of 131 leasing companies indicates that the value of their outstanding agricultural leases rose 141 percent between 1979 and 1980. Rising machinery prices, loan rates and income tax brackets for some farmers make leasing attractive. The Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 grants advantages to corporations and banks that purchase rental equipment, a situation fostering desirable leasing terms for farmers.

IF THE REAGAN Administration succeeds in decontrolling natural gas prices, the nation's farmers will face production cost increases of $1.54 billion in 1982 and $8.2 billion over the next three years, according to a study released by the Citizen/Labor Energy Coalition (CLEC). The study found that fertilizer, heating, electricity and irrigation costs will all rise as a result of higher natural gas prices and that the results could be "serious erosion" in the nation's already declining farm income.

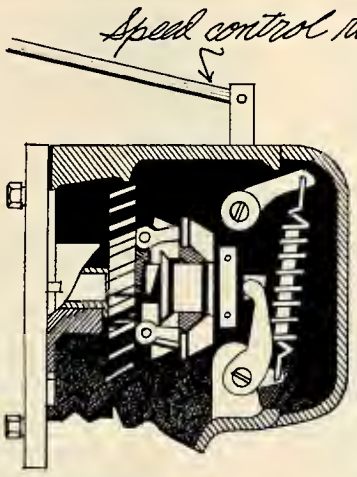
NEARLY 88 PERCENT OF THE NATION'S FARMS and 67 percent of farm and ranch land are operated by individuals or families, says a report by the Commerce Department's Census Bureau. Ten percent of farms and about 15 percent of the land are operated by partnerships. Family or nonfamily corporations operate 2.1 percent of farms and 11.7 percent of farm and ranch land. On the average, farms are 415 acres large. The number of small farms, those with 10 acres or less, have increased by more than 20 percent since 1974.

A REPORT FROM THE AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION says the world is up to its eyelids in edible vegetable oil, as a result of record production and crushing at the same time that demand has stabilized or declined. As a result, the value of soybean oil as a percent of the total farm price of one bushel of soybeans has declined from over 50 percent in 1973 to about 31 percent in 1980.

U.S. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE John Block has announced a breakthrough in genetic engineering to produce a vaccine against the virus foot-and-mouth disease, one of the world's most serious animal diseases. Block said he believed the breakthrough was "the first production of a vaccine through gene splicing against any disease in animals or humans. Animal tests carried out over an eight-week period show that the vaccine works." The research work was done under a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Science and Education Administration and Genetech, Inc.

Ag Tips

from your Exxon Farm Distributor

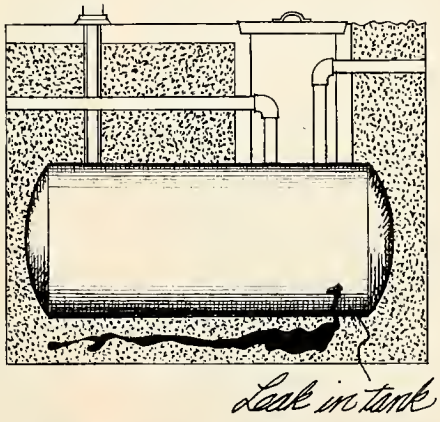


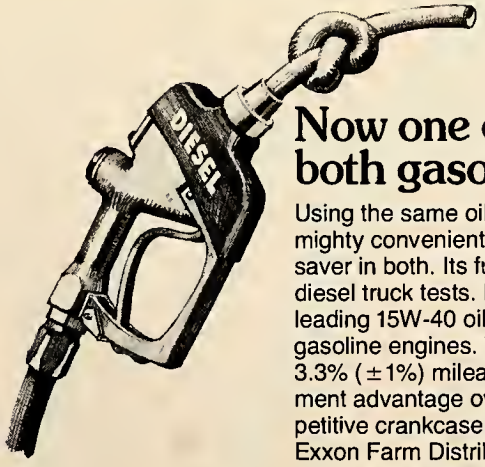
Simple governor adjustment can save gas, boost tractor power.

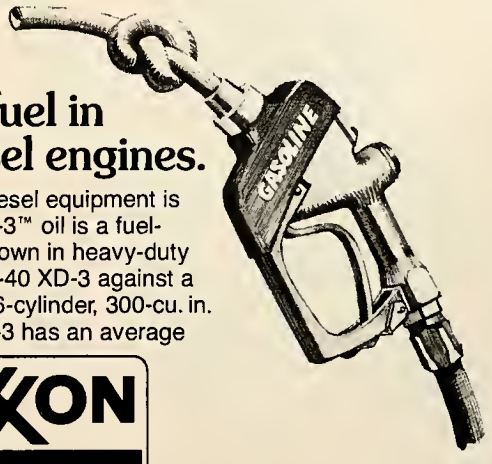
When ag engineers at a state university checked gasoline tractors at random, they found 4 out of 5 needed governor adjustment. In 32%, no-load speed was too high; in 62%, full-load speed was too low. Many needed new parts before they could be adjusted. But where adjustment was possible, it resulted in a 9.1% increase in horsepower with a 4.8% fuel saving. Not bad for a few minutes' work with a tach.

Watch out for corrosion in underground fuel tanks.

A big underground tank with a rust hole no larger than a pencil lead can waste up to 100 gallons of gasoline or diesel fuel in 24 hours. So it pays to catch leaks early. Keeping good records of the gallons of fuel you receive and the gallons you pump out of the tank will help you spot a leak. Keep an extra close watch on any tank that's been in service 15 to 20 years. Age, accumulated water or corrosive soil will eventually rust any steel tank.







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The FFA NEWS IN BRIEF

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE were changed by delegates at the recent National FFA Convention held in November. The amendment changes the minimum amount an FFA member must earn and have productively invested from $1,000 to $5,000. Since the convention, the National FFA Board has been polled by phone and has agreed to continue the $1,000 requirement for those candidates receiving the degree in 1982.

JEFF RUDD AND TERESA TESNOHLIDEK have been chosen directors of the 1982 Washington Conference Program staff. Other staff members include Larry Stoller, Jeanette Jones, Susie Quay, Mark Lelle, Ken Maxwell, Lance Chancellor and former national officers David Pearce and Jeff Kirby. For more information on the Washington Conference Program watch for the brochure to be mailed to all chapters March 15, 1982. Dates for the conference this year are June 7-11, 14-18, 21-15, June 28-July 3, July 12-16, 19-23, 26-30 and August 2-6. State Presidents' Conference is July 25-30.

NEW NATIONAL OFFICERS OFF AND RUNNING after completing their two-week orientation and training conference at the National FFA Center. Your national officer team sped off to Greenhand and sophomore Motivational Leadership conferences before heading out to different states for individual experience programs, working with radio and television publicity, chapter visits and high school assemblies. After a brief stop at the National FFA Center again for the January National Board of Directors' meeting, the national officers will head off to Japan and Korea for an international experience tour sponsored by Mitsui and Company, Inc. The rest of February and throughout the beginning of March will see them visiting sponsors in business and industry.

THE REVOLVING DOOR OF THE FFA'S International Department was spinning at top speed in mid-December when six Panamanian students in the AID-Panama project left for home after spending eight months in Indiana and Kentucky. At the same time 32 WEA (Work Experience Abroad) participants arrived at the National FFA Center from nine European countries, having spent three or six months living and working on foreign farms and agribusinesses. Next, six FFA'ers returned from their six-month programs in Panama, part of the AID-Panama exchange. Meanwhile, seven WEA "around the world" participants began the journey from their European placements to new locations in Australia. In between they toured such places as Cairo, Athens, Singapore and, appropriately, spent Christmas in Israel. Applications are now being accepted for the June, 1982, Work Experience Abroad group. Deadline in the national office is March 1, but applications must first be sent to your state office.

EDWARD J. HAWKINS, FFA Administrative Director, has announced plans to retire prior to March 1, 1982, after 30 years of service to the FFA. As Administrative Director, Mr. Hawkins was responsible for the overall administration of the operations of the National FFA Center. he worked as a manager of the FFA Supply Service for 19 years prior to his appointment as Administrative Director in 1971.

Edward J. Hawkins

THE 1982 SUPERVISED OCCUPATIONAL Experience Workshop is scheduled for July 25-30 at the Hyatt Regency in Virginia and has been dubbed "potentially . . . one of the most important national agricultural education meetings ever held" by National FFA Advisor Byron Rawls. Vocational agriculture leaders will discuss the future of their Supervised Occupational Experiences and be trained to conduct workshops in states. The workshop dates coincide with the FFA State Presidents' Conference and grand opening of the FFA National Hall of Achievement.

A NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM has been installed at the National FFA Center, with an added bonus. The National Supply Service has added special numbers for you to call if you need to place an order or discuss an order (703-780-5600, -5601 or -5602). All other calls to the Center are still being taken through our usual number 703-360-3600.

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Readers Report

MAILBAG

Fullerton, California

During this summer we felt the Future Farmers of America in Orange County and Los Angeles County, California, needed to be brought to many residents' attention. We thought that if more people knew of all the good things the Future Farmers of America is, the organization in our area might become stronger. So, after all this thinking, we put our heads together and wrote a story about the FFA. We submitted the story to the *Los Angeles Times*, which is a very large newspaper in our area, and received an enthusiastic response from a *Times* reporter. After many hours of interviewing and many days of writing about the Future Farmers of America, our friendly reporter finally finished the article and it was published on September 14, 1981. The article received such a great response from the public we felt *The National FUTURE FARMER* should know. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the article and a copy of the story we wrote.

Nancy Hosteret
Reporter, Sunny Hills FFA
Rick Ruiz
President, Troy FFA

Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin

After reading your October-November, 1981, article on "Hunting the Cottontail Rabbit" by Samuel Skeen, I would agree with most of what you printed about rabbit hunting.

However, I disagree with hunting rabbits with a .22 rifle. I've asked a couple of people about hunting rabbits with a .22 rifle. They say that they hunt rabbits with a 410 shotgun because it is too hard to hit a rabbit when it is running with a .22 rifle. You don't see too many rabbits sitting still that you will get a shot.

A 410 shotgun shell is full of shot which spreads out when you shoot. A .22 rifle is just a little steel in a bullet that shoots straight out. When using a .22 rifle, you have to be a good shot. A .22 rifle is used for squirrels, because squirrels are usually sitting in trees not moving around.

I don't mind your advice on rabbit hunting, but using a .22 rifle to hunt rabbits isn't right. Most people can't hit a rabbit with a .22 rifle when it's running.

Wayne Schlimgen

Thank you for pointing out to us what you feel are mistakes in the article about hunting the cottontail rabbit. We, too, wondered about hunting them with a .22 rifle, but decided perhaps the author knew his subject much better than we. Hunting is done a little differently in different parts of the country, but we agree it is difficult to find a rabbit sitting still and some people consider it unsportsmanlike to shoot them sitting.—Ed.

Indianapolis, Indiana

I would like to publically acknowledge the splendid public relations efforts of Bob Juncker and the Indiana FFA Officer team who annually see to it that I receive your excellent *National FUTURE FARMER* magazine mailed to my home, where I'm able to read it more completely and liesurely than I might otherwise.

While having never been a Charlie Greenhand, I find many of the articles most interesting and informative.

The only way I can see for your magazine's improvement would be to write up some of the excellent things being done by the Indiana FFA organization. Nevertheless, Bob Juncker, and the state officer team and yourselves should all take a bow. Please keep up the good work.

Dr. Michael S. Brici, Director
Division of Vocational Education

Madison, Wisconsin

We have been studying the new Accelerated Cost Recovery System (A.C.R.S.) in our Farm and Industry Short Course class called Farm Records for Farm Managers.

Your article on pages 37-38 of the December-January, 1981-82, issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER* carries an article about A.C.R.S. We find this in variance with the Farmer's Tax Guide—Publication #225 (Rev. October, 1981). The specific area we find in error is the part dealing with 10 year property. The discussion on investment tax credit is somewhat confusing.

Enclosed is a copy of IRS Publication #225. Please look at chapter 6, paying particular attention to the middle column on page 16, chapter 6.

Robert A. Lueing
Extension Farm Records, Specialist
University of Wisconsin

Corunna, Michigan

I certainly enjoyed receiving my first copy of *The National FUTURE FARMER*, December-January edition. Since I am a member of alumni and a former vocational agriculture teacher, I looked with great interest at the articles in Vol. 30, Number 2.

Your article on "New Tax Laws Crucial To Farmers" where you quote Thomas A. Bloch, pages 37 and 38, has many mistakes and

(Continued on Page 12)

Mrs. Ronald Reagan presented a Steuben crystal eagle to FFA member Karen Coble of Vanzant, Missouri, September 10, 1981, in the White House First Ladies Garden. Karen was named one of the General Federation of Women's Clubs Distinguished Teenage Volunteers. Looking on are Mrs. Elizabeth Dole, assistant to the President, and Mrs. Don Shide, at the lecturn, international GFWC president.

Ladies At The White House

VOLUNTEERISM has always been an American idea. And so the General Federation of Women's Clubs have honored leaders in the nation who have made significant contributions in their communities.

Two of the seven honorees were teenagers. Karen Coble is an FFA member from Vanzant, Missouri. She was involved in the Mountain Grove Chapter activities which distinguished her as a volunteer and a good leader.

As the local chapter safety chairman, Karen helped expand the new rural fire department's membership and organized fire safety programs presented to schools and other groups. She also worked with promoting safety in the community with radio and other media.

Karen has attended FFA leadership conferences in Washington and was involved in other school leadership such as student council vice president and National Honor Society. She was cited as "girl of the month" by the Mountain Grove Business and Professional Women's Club.

Currently she is enrolled in agriculture at the University of Missouri. Her career goal is to be involved in agricultural public relations. Karen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Coble who operated a 1,000-acre dairy and beef cattle farm where Karen has had plenty of work experience. Her brother, Keith, was a summer intern for the National FFA Alumni Association and the National Rural Caucus in Washington. She was nominated by the local Mountain Grove Kappa Theta Club of the General Federation of Women's Club.

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Mailbag

(Continued from Page 8)

omissions. The new ARCS 3 year program is set up for only auto, trucks, breeding swine and breeding sheep used in the farm business. The percentages are correct, but all of these types of items must use the same ARCS program. The 5 year program includes all farm machinery and special use farm buildings and all must be combined into one entry, and here again, your percentages are correct. Your worst mistake is in the 10 year property. Only house trailers set on farm land applies, no other farm items. All general purpose building real estate investment tile and etc., must use the 15 year program. Each item is handled separately and entered on its own line, depreciation based on acquisition month. A new depreciation reporting form, 4562, must be used (no longer on the back of form 1040F). Items that use 3 and 5 year ARCS when sold lose 60 percent capital gain exclusion and all salvage or sale value is considered ordinary income.

Richard S. Austin
Extension Agriculture Agent

After receiving these two letters, we contacted the source of the article and asked them to please help us clarify this question. We received the following reply: *Ten-year property* category includes depreciable real property with an Asset Depreciation Range midpoint life of 12½ years or less; such as manufactured homes used to house farm employees. (Single purpose livestock and horticultural structures are considered five-year property.) *Fifteen-year property* includes all real property, such as farm buildings, and most land improvements other than any designated as 5-year or 10-year property.—Ed.

Bismarck, North Dakota

What a thrill is was to see the great story on the Herigstad bee operation in North Dakota. I couldn't be happier, and I know that the story should be an inspiration to young people who want to get into this fascinating business.

Don Erickson
State FFA Advisor

Moravia, New York

Thank you for allowing us to reprint the article "A Start Alone in Agribusiness." Enclosed you will find several copies of the reprint for your files and the photos you sent for our use.

Mrs. Linda K. Carr
Chronicle Guidance Publications, Inc.

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Ag Day '82

Agriculture Day, a nationwide program of education and celebration to recognize agriculture's contribution to American life, is scheduled this year for Thursday, March 18, 1982 under the theme "Agriculture: It's Your Heartbeat, America!"

The annual observance, begun in 1973, is directed nationally by the Agriculture Day Foundation and administered by the Agriculture Council of America. Activities cover a broad range of projects and events such as securing proclamations from governors and mayors; appearing on television and radio talk shows; setting up exhibits at shopping centers; serving as hosts of farm, ranch and agribusiness tours; and speaking to school children. Several FFA chapters have participated in the celebration.

Supporters are being urged to celebrate the observance with a week-long schedule of activities that would begin on Agriculture Day (a Thursday) and conclude the following Wednesday. One highlight of the 1981 observance was the proclamation of Agriculture Day as an official national observance, by the President and U.S. Congress.

A wide range of promotional materials are available to help people celebrate the observance. For more information on how to obtain these materials, write: Agriculture Day Foundation, P.O. Box 23421, Washington, D.C. 20024.

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Speaking Out For Agriculture

Orion Samuelson credits past FFA days as one reason for his successful career in farm broadcasting.

By Margie Pritzker

Orion Samuelson speaking to FFA members at this year's National FFA Convention.

WHO travels over 65,000 miles a year; rises for work at 3:45 a.m.; delivers over 100 speeches annually, and appears weekly on over 90 stations in a nationally syndicated TV show, as well as daily on two radio shows and a local television show?

It's former FFA member Orion Samuelson, the big man with the powerful voice. Probably the nation's most respected farm broadcaster, Samuelson credits his success to his early association with the Future Farmers.

Raised on a 200-acre Wisconsin dairy farm, he had just graduated from a one-room country grade school when misfortune struck: Samuelson developed a bone disease which made him an invalid for two years. Faced with long days of bed rest, he spent hours listening to the radio and thinking. Knowing he couldn't be a farmer, he decided broadcasting was the field he would pursue.

His FFA advisor often traveled the five miles from school to the farm, bringing school assignments and taking the completed homework back to the teachers. When Samuelson was able, at last, to attend school, his advisor encouraged him to pursue public speaking through FFA and in high school forensics. The same man approached the basketball coach to suggest that Samuelson announce the school games. This early speaking experience played a part in Samuelson's later selection as a state finalist in the Wisconsin FFA public speaking contest.

Today the familiar sound of Samuelson's deep, rich voice and the crisply enunciated diction are his trademarks. Speaking not only to farmers, but for farmers, he explains to the general public the "why" of food costs and the "how come" of agricultural needs and concerns.

Vice President and Agricultural Services Director at WGN in Chicago, he has been with the station since 1960, when he was hired as Farm Service Director. After graduating from high school, he took a broadcasting course in Minneapolis and was soon working as "a disk jockey, a news person, a sales person and an engineer." In 1956, he was hired by the farm department of a Green Bay, Wisconsin, station where he stayed until going with WGN.

His "Morning Show" and "Noon Show" on radio, plus his "Top o' the Morning" daily TV show would be more than enough to keep most people busy. His nationally syndicated "U.S. Farm Report," however, and his traveling, are other responsibilities. Samuleson's travels take him around the country to farm meetings and conventions, on speaking appearances and to cover news stories. His talks encompass topics such as world affairs, the economy, agriculture, communications and motivation.

Speaking of motivation, what makes Orion Samuelson tick? What keeps him going at such an exciting pace?

The answers are several. For one thing, says his Associate Producer/Secretary Lottie Kearns, he needs very little sleep. "Occasionally in the office, he'll say, 'I'm really tired—don't think I'll make it through tonight's speech. Wake me in 15 minutes.'

"Then he sits down at his desk, puts his head down, crosses his arms, and within 60 seconds, he's sound asleep! Snoring!

"Also, he's terribly organized," she says. "He knows exactly where he's going and what he's doing. And he's always on schedule. Even his paper clips in the drawer are organized!"

Beyond these qualities, however, Samuelson bases his life on firmly held beliefs. "I'm very positive," he says. "I feel that whoever said 'If you get a lemon, make lemonade,' had a philosophy worth going by." His illness as a teenager, he says, taught him never to judge a happening at the moment it occurs.

"I don't get excited about things over which I have no control," he continues. "I have a strong faith because I think I get a lot of help from upstairs. I think I get the metabolism, the voice and everything else from there.

"So basically I try to use it to benefit a lot of people. I get a great deal of satisfaction out of thinking that what I have done during the day has been helpful to people."

In his speeches, he also stresses tolerance of others and their ideas. "There are many people I disagree with," he says, "but with whom I am very close friends because of the tolerance I think I have developed for different viewpoints and ideas."

Based on these philosophies, Samuelson's talent and hard work have brought him awards, honors and fascinating experiences. In the mid-70's, he accompanied Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz on a trade mission tour to Thailand, Japan and other countries. In 1978, he was a member of an Illinois agricultural trade mission to the People's Republic of China.

His honors include an "Oscar in Agriculture" for radio and another for television. Named "National Farm Broadcaster of the Year" in 1968, he has also been honored by the national Future Farmers of America, the FFA Alumni Association, the national 4-H Service Committee and others.

Thoroughly enjoying his work, Samuelson says, "The nicest part is the people: I meet and work with some of the world's greatest."

It was his father, he says, "a shy Norwegian dairy farmer who doesn't understand the big city," who provided the best description of Samuelson's job. "Shortly after I came here," says Samuelson, "my father visited Chicago for the first time and saw what I was doing. He sat in the studio during the 'Noon Show.' I was trying to impress him with all the big words and everything because you want your parents to think they turned out something fairly good.

"When we got done, I started putting things away, and he didn't say anything. I finished and got up to leave, and he still hadn't said anything. We walked out into the corridor and I said, 'Well, Dad. What do you think?'

"He looked at me and said, 'Well, it must be nice to be able to look at all that hard work—and then just talk about it!' "

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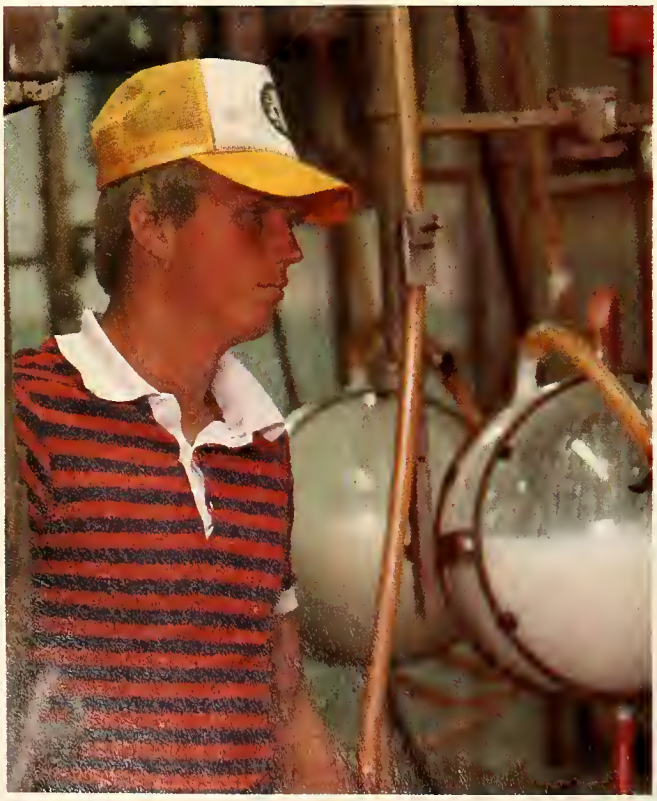
Getting started—

From Future

Star Farmer of America Chuck Berry, of Elma, Washington.

Photos by Bill Stagg

Star Farmer from the Southern Region George McDonald, of Carthage, Tennessee.



Eastern Region Star Farmer Tony Mitchell, of Elkin, North Carolina.

Star Farmer from the Central Region Doug Schwartz, of Washington, Kansas.

Farmer to Farmer

GETTING started in farming.

It can be the most challenging and difficult undertaking of a young person's life. But it can yield the most rewarding, fruitful and memorable experiences of a lifetime as well. We thought it might be interesting to hear from our four 1981 Regional Star Farmers—FFA's cream of the crop—and report on their trials and tribulations in making the jump from "Future Farmer to Farmer." Some give advice, some inspiration; and some merely a personal sketch of the steps which helped guide and launch their careers in production agriculture. In any case, we hope you find the following profiles helpful to your own FFA experience and career in agriculture.

Chuch Berry, Star Farmer of America

The 1981 National FFA Convention saw Chuck Berry, of Elma, Washington, named Star Farmer of America. Chuck, representing the Western Region, is a 21-year-old dairy farmer who now owns a 95-cow herd and 144 acres of land.

"At the age of seven I started helping on the farm, mostly feeding the calves and helping my father haul manure," Chuck says. "By then, he was beginning to set up plans for me to have a partnership with him if I was still interested by age 18."

Chuck started his own dairy project with two Holstein heifers as a Greenhand in 1975. Two years later he decided to make a career out of the dairy, so in 1978, on his 18th birthday, Chuck took over part of the management duties. By 1979, Chuck had purchased the farm with financial help from his father. He took complete responsibility for the dairy upon his father's death in 1980.

"In the spring of 1980 I got financial aid to build a new double-six herringbone milking parlor plus a manure tank," Chuck says. His own labor plus a hired hand provided the work for the expansion, and by February of 1981, the new parlor was complete.

"I financed nearly $30,000 out of my own pocket, but when I build again I will finance everything through FmHA (Farmers Home Administration)," says Chuck.

Chuck's advice for farming hopefuls? "Be ready for hard work; don't be afraid to go in debt; and don't be afraid to purchase new machinery. When I first took over, I spent late nights repairing machinery, helping cows have calves and changing pipe myself because I couldn't afford any help," he says. "My top priorities remain: being independent while I'm young, attempting to purchase the dependable, modern machinery where needed, and trying to stay *unmarried* (financially) to a dealer," he says with a laugh.

George McDonald

This year's Star Farmer from the Southern Region is George McDonald, from Carthage, Tennessee. As a Greenhand, George raised 59 beef cattle, 2½ acres of burley tobacco and a few truck crops. He expanded his enterprises throughout high school and today he's currently involved in a 50/50 partnership with his father on the family's beef, dairy and crop operation, as well as maintaining a seed dealership. Although it was several years ago, George says he still remembers his first exposure to FFA's Star Farmer.

"It was my first National FFA Convention," he recalls. "I was amazed at the four regional Star Farmers when comparing their farming programs to my own. Before the convention I had set some goals, but after being inspired by their programs I returned home and set new goals for myself; one of these goals was to become Star Farmer of America.

"I had a long way to go back in 1974, but I had to start somewhere," George reflects. "Sure I was let down the night Star Farmer was announced and I wasn't selected. But it made me more determined and ambitious than ever. Because I had strived for Star Farmer of America, I had reached goals along the way that made my effort very much worthwhile."

George believes the farmer of the 21st century will need to possess more leadership ability than ever before. "We are approaching the era of 'work smarter, not harder,' " he says. "Don't get me wrong—there will still be plenty of hard work. But to be successful we will have to spend more time in making management decisions. This is where leadership provided by the FFA will become more vital than ever in managing, negotiating, and bargaining."

George says young farmers should adhere to a "nothing is impossible" attitude in order to stand firm in establishing themselves. "People have told me that certain things are impossible, but if you have the determination, dedication, hard work and belief that nothing will stop you from reaching a goal, then nothing is impossible," he says.

He advises young farmers to be willing to accept change. "I try never to get stuck in the same old rut," the Star Farmer asserts. "Be able to listen to other people's ideas and then plan your own."

"I'm never completely satisfied with what I have achieved," he says as a final note. "I'm always reaching for higher goals, larger yields, better production and more net income whether it be in my farming operation or in my life."

Tony Mitchell

Our Eastern Region Star Farmer, Tony Mitchell of Elkin, North Carolina, is involved in a dairy herd consisting of 110 Holstein cows, 34 bred heifers, 36 calves and 5 bulls. Tony began helping his father and older brothers with the milking chores as a youngster. As a Greenhand, he raised two heifers, two brood sows and four acres of corn. By the time he graduated from high school in 1978, he had formed a partnership with his brother and rented the family dairy from his parents, Jacob and Alice Mitchell.

"When I joined FFA as a Greenhand I become involved in the livestock, dairy and land-judging teams," recalls Tony. "Later, these helped me in selecting better cows and working with land for best results from crops."

Tony's older brother Roy was named Eastern Region Star Farmer in 1975. "This gave me my goal to go on and become Star Farmer," Tony says. "I was a sophomore in high school at the time and wanted to get more involved in the dairy in order to go on to compete for Star Farmer of America."

He bought his first piece of land as a junior, after securing a loan through a local bank.

Tony advises other FFA members to listen to their chapter advisors and parents. "Mom and Dad were a big help in guiding me to make decisions," he says.

After high school graduation, Tony and his brother built their herd number up from 80 cows to the current 110 cows. Through tight management practices and close analysis of DHIA records, they've managed to bring the herd average up to 13,000 pounds per year over the last three years.

Doug Schwartz

Doug Schwartz, from Washington, Kansas, is the 1981 Central Region Star Farmer. Doug bought his first sow at age

(Continued on Page 32)

Cornfield vs Concrete: the Concern Over Farmland Conversion

By Michael Wilson

THE year: sometime in the distant future. The place: somewhere in what used to be called "the cornbelt" of the United States, the midwest, the breadbasket. You see what seems to be a huge city, teeming and vibrating with concrete and steel, a massive throbbing beehive of metropolitan sprawl. Looking closer, you begin to notice this is not merely a city. No, it is ***the*** *city—****there is nothing else****. No border where buildings stop and country starts; no highway roads that change to rustic rural settings . . . and numbed, you ask yourself: "Where is the farmland?" Indeed, where is it?*

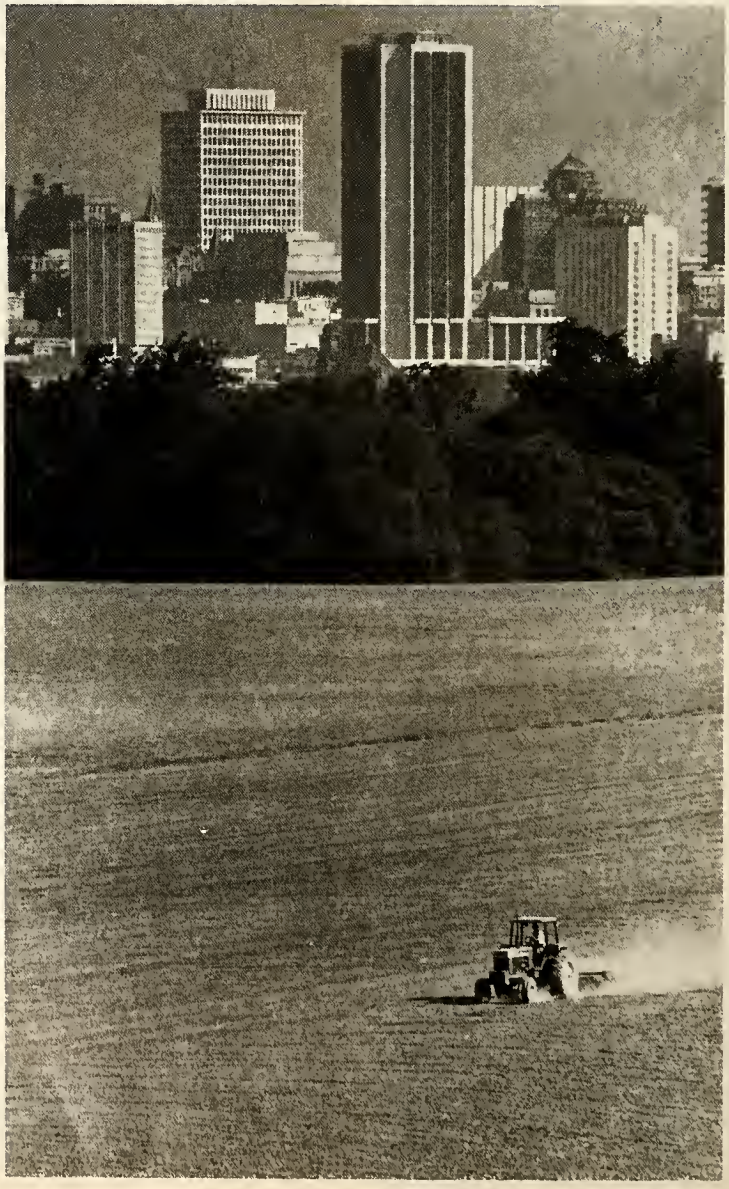
This hypothetical nightmare may sound impossible. Admittedly, the United States is far from such a fiasco, with its bountiful grain harvests and seemingly endless miles of flat fertile fields that hum each year with vibrant productivity. But a 1981 study of farmland conversion to urban use shows even the land has its limits; land which once produced soybeans and wheat now produces parking lots and runways.

According to the National Agricultural Lands Study (NALS), three million acres of farmland each year are converted and developed for urban uses such as shopping centers, reservoirs, housing, industrial sites and airports. The study was released in January of 1981 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the President's Council on Environmental Quality. It states that, of the three million, one million acres are "prime" land—land best suited for farming. That adds up to about four square miles of prime land lost each day. In more colorful terms, it represents an annual prime farmland loss equalling a one-half-mile strip of land stretching from the state of California to New York.

Agricultural leaders, reacting to the study, have voiced concern. "In my lifetime we've paved over the equivalent of all the cropland in Ohio," says former Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland. "Before this century is out we will pave over an area the size of Indiana. I don't know where it is going to stop, but it must."

Former Secretary of Interior Cecil D. Andrus has long been an advocate of land-use planning and environmental protection. "The 30 million acres we've lost over the last decade amounts to an area the size of Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey and Delaware combined," he says. "The question is whether we will act while our depletion of agricultural land can still be halted, or whether we will wait until a set of troublesome tendencies becomes a full-blown emergency."

Mr. Andrus currently acts as spokesperson for the American Farmland Trust, a national nonprofit membership organization founded to preserve American farmland.



National Concern

Reactions to the NALS findings have been voiced nationwide. A national policy calling for the protection of U.S. agricultural lands against excessive urban development was among the features of the 1981 Farm Bill signed into law by President Reagan on December 22, 1981. Congress declared in the Farm Bill that the "continued decrease in the nation's farmland base may threaten the ability of the United States to produce food and fiber in sufficient quantities to meet domestic needs and the demands of our export markets."

Throughout its 18-month investigation, the NALS discovered that 90 federal government programs promote farmland urbanization.. The new legislation is intended to minimize the extent to which federal programs contribute to the unnecessary conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses. Under the law, federal agencies must evaluate their program and consider alternative development schemes to reduce the impact on farmland.

The bill also requires federal agencies to conduct their programs compatibly with the approximately 300 state and local farmland protection programs and private efforts to save farmland. "The new policy legislation," says Robert Gray, who headed the NALS, "says to Washington that it should work with, instead of against, state and local efforts to keep prime farmland in agriculture."

For the most part, state and local programs have been successful. Prior to his arrival in Washington, D.C., as Secretary of Agriculture, John Block's concern for farmland preservation prompted Illinois Governor James Thompson to sign the country's first State Executive Order in 1980, making preservation of farmland one of the state's top

(Continued on Page 21)

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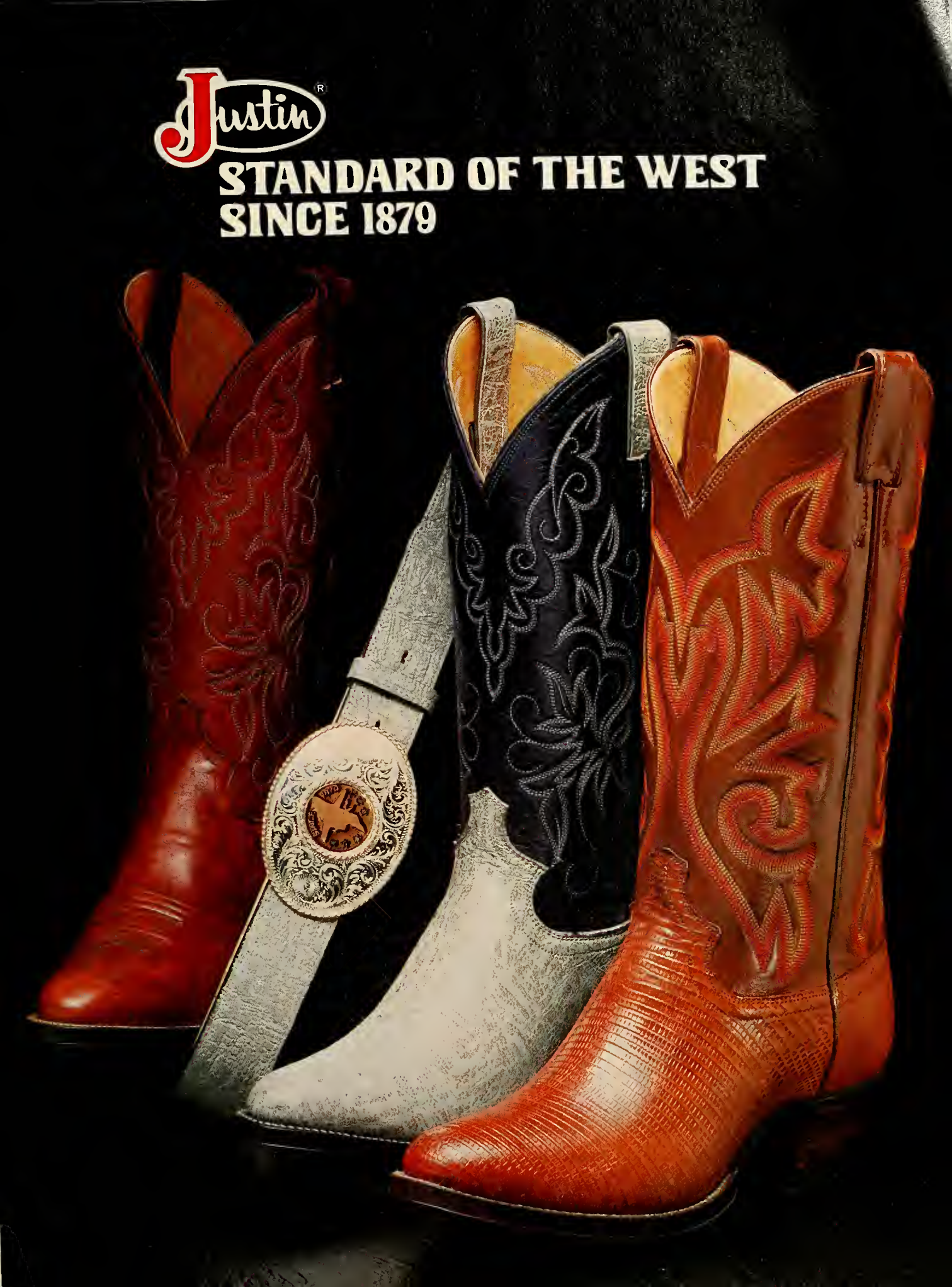

Building For A Better Tomorrow

Bobby Peterson is a member of the Miami Trace FFA Chapter, led by advisors Frank Breedlove and William Diley.

Bobby Peterson, Washington Court House, Ohio
1981 National Home and Farmstead Improvement Winner

Bobby Peterson has foresight. And he's using it to build for tomorrow right now, through activities in the FFA Home and Farmstead Improvement Program.

For the past four years, Bobby has worked to improve the family farm so it is more attractive and energy efficient. He remodeled his family's home, building a new bathroom, bedroom, family room and kitchen. He also renovated the two-car garage and built a new metal garage. To add the final touches to the new look of the family farm, Bobby landscaped the yard.

That's what FFA is all about: Planning toward a better tomorrow and working as a team member.

The Upjohn Company is enthusiastic about being part of this team as sponsor of the FFA Home and Farmstead Improvement Program.

The people at Upjohn think it's important to work together with concerned individuals like Bobby and his fellow FFA'ers, to make the American farm a better place on which to live.

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Kalamazoo, Michigan

Farmland

(Continued from Page 18)

priorities. The Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program reports as of last August 3.1 million acres under protection through preservation agreements or local exclusive agricultural zoning ordinances, and 14,700 individual famrs are covered. In Connecticut, the General Assembly has passed legislation changing their farmland preservation program from a pilot activity to a permanent program. And several other states have set up farmland preservation programs as well.

Private groups, such as the American Farmland Trust mentioned earlier, are seeing results from efforts. "We offer farmers an option to selling their land out of agriculture," says AFT President Douglas P. Wheeler. "We finance the purchase of development rights and accept donations of conservation easements, so that agriculture can continue and the landowner recovers part or all of his equity. If such easements are conveyed according to a farmland protection policy, the landowner can qualify for substantial tax benefits. Thus, the new national policy should give a boost to the private attempts of farmers and groups like AFT to protect this finite resource."

Guarded Optimism

The loss of farmland has left the impression to many that, as a result, the price of food will inevitably skyrocket and that U.S. agricultural exports will have to be sharply curtailed in the coming decades. But at least one expert says there is room for guarded optimism. According to Agricultural Economist Michael Brewer, former research director for the NALS, the United States "is in no danger of running out of food because of disappearing farmland."

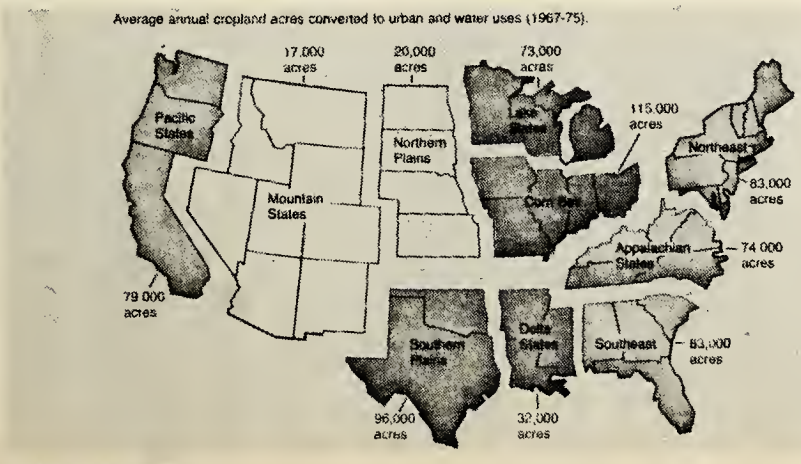
In a new study of *The Changing U.S. Farmland Scene*, Mr. Brewer points out that the NALS 3-million-acre annual loss figure is misleading, because the amount "includes land that never was and never could be used for crop production." According to 1977 Soil Conservation Service statistics, out of 1.3 billion acres of nonfederal agricultural land, the U.S. had 413 million of "current" cropland, plus 127 million acres of other land with "high" or "medium" potential for conversion to cropland, Mr. Brewer reports. Between 1967 and 1975—the time frame used by the NALS—the amount of this type of land converted to "urban, built-up, transportation and water uses" was 875,000 acres per year. Even if this conversion rate continues, the U.S. cropland base in the year 2000 would still add up to some 520 million acres, Mr. Brewer points out—an ample margin over 484 million acres, the highest of current projections of the acreage needed to meet domestic and international demands on American croplands at the end of the century.

Mr. Brewer also notes several factors which are likely to slow the rate at which farmland is being converted, such as reduced needs for housing, the virtual completion of our interstate highway system (which consumes 41 acres of land per mile of road), and a slowdown in reservoir construction due to the likelihood that most of the better sites for water development are now being utilized.

Current record-high interest rates could dampen non-farmers' eagerness to share in the bounty of soaring farmland values—another source of recent pressure on farmland, Mr. Brewer observes. As much as a third of farmland sold in 1979, for example, probably went to non-farmers. Farmland speculators often arrange to have their property farmed temporarily but are unlikely to invest in conservation measures to maintain the land's quality, Mr. Brewer says.

No one can say for sure how the conversion of farmland to urban use will affect the future of agriculture or food supplies. But it is true that the U.S. agricultural land scene is changing dramatically. What's more, it's a safe bet FFA members everywhere will be affected. The need to become involved will fall squarely on the shoulders of all future generations of agriculturists.

Urbanization encroaches on thousands of cropland acres.



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FFA Highlights 1981

The editors of The National Future Farmer have selected these events as highlights of the FFA year

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN surprised everyone by making a surprise appearance at the White House Rose Garden moments after Vice President George Bush and Secretary of Education Terrel Bell had spoken to state FFA officers during the annual State Presidents' Conference. "Just looking at you makes the job a little easier," he said. "You're going to have greater opportunities; you're going to see more, you're going to know more, you're going to be able to live longer and be healthier. There isn't anything we can't do if we set our minds to it."

MEMBERSHIP IN THE FFA ALUMNI reached an all-time high of 22,567 members, easily surpassing the 21,000-member goal established at the beginning of the year. "We had been growing about 10 percent every year, but we've had almost a 20 percent jump this year," reported Woody Cox, executive director of the National FFA Alumni Association. It was a fitting highlight for the organization which celebrated its tenth anniversary this past year.

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of Education made known its support for the FFA and other vocational student organizations in a policy statement issued in September. The statement says in part: "The United States Department of Education recognizes the concept of total student development as being necessary for all vocational education students..." and "... approves of Federal and State grant funds for vocational education to be used by the states to give leadership and support to these vocational student organizations and activities..." The statement is signed by Secretary of Education T.H. Bell and Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education Robert M. Worthington.

THE NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION witnessed delegates voting to change minumum requirements for the American Farmer degree, a first in FFA history. An FFA member must earn or have productively invested $5,000 instead of the original $1,000 minimum in order to receive the degree. The National FFA Board of Directors decide in January when the decision is to go into effect. Another first was the distribution of a convention newspaper, the *FFA Times* given to all convention attendees and mailed to all FFA chapters. Speakers like Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, Eddie Albert and farm broadcaster Orion Samuelson provided plenty of inspiration and excitement.

POSITIVE INPUT AND EFFECTIVE presentations by teachers, teacher-educators and state supervisors were just a few of the highlights of the UPDATE meeting held in conjunction with the State Presidents' Conference. State advisors, vo-ag leaders and state executive secretaries representing 41 states met with national FFA staff and others in Washington, D.C., to discuss several different aspects and programs of the Future Farmers of America organization and vocational education. It was the first time such a meeting had taken place at the National FFA center.

JOHN R. BLOCK, ONE-TIME Illinois Director of Agriculture and a former state FFA officer, was appointed to serve as Secretary of Agriculture on President Ronald Reagan's Cabinet. Mr. Block, 45, is an owner/operator of a farrow-to-finish hog farm near Galesburg, Illinois. The new secretary holds the FFA's State Farmer degree and attained the office of section FFA president during his years as a member of the Future Farmers of America.

A FESTIVE RIBBON-CUTTING ceremony at the dedication of the National FFA Center's new lobby took place during the 1981 State Presidents' Conference. Hall of Achievement work continued on at the center and by year's end the unprecedented exhibit was completed. The Hall of Achievement dedication will take place during the 1982 State Presidents' Conference. Meanwhile, the FFA Center continues its internal face-lift; a new computer programming operation is due to go "on-line" soon; a new employee lounge/kitchen area was completed; a library/archives area has been added; and a new telephone system has been hooked up while constant renovation takes place on virtually all floors of the building.

FFA MEMBERSHIP INCREASED after three years of downward trend. The official 1980-81 membership stood at 482,611, an increase of 935 members from a year earlier. Through the 10-PLUS program, 1,573 chapters gained at least 10 members more than they had last year. Nationwide 2,590 chapters' membership equalled or was greater than the number of vo-ag students at the school and hence earned 100 percent distinction.

FFA'S BUILDING OUR AMERICAN communities (BOAC) program celebrated its tenth anniversary with a new BOAC film entitled "Hometown America." The film was premiered at a banquet attended by several representatives of farm organizations, trade and commodity groups. Keynote speaker was Secretary of Agriculture John Block and Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Representative Ed Jones, House Agriculture Committee member, and Edward Horrigan, chairman and chief executive officer of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, also spoke at the luncheon.

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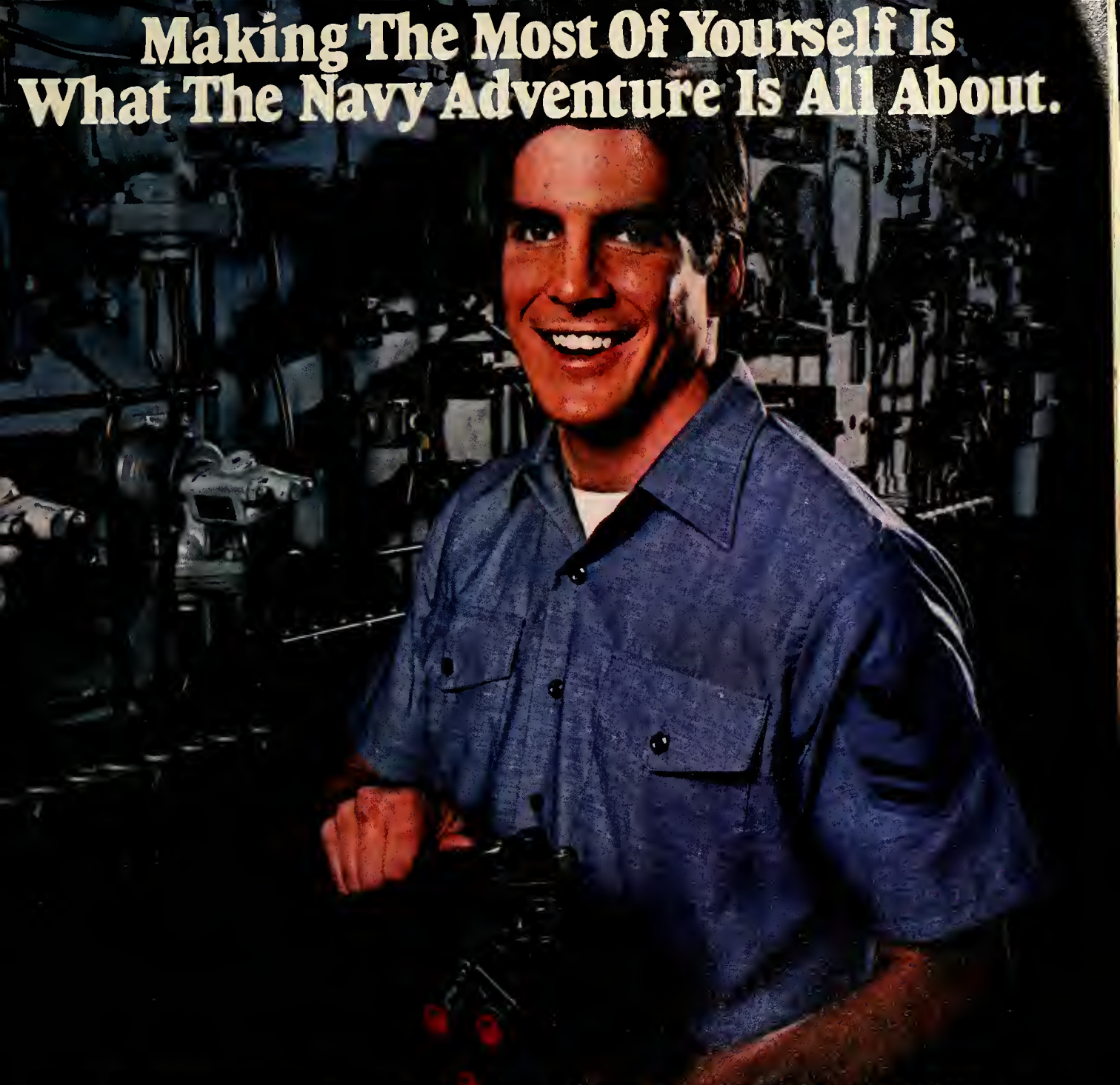

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Navy. It's Not Just A Job, It's An Adventure.

Forecasting the Future: Ag Outlook '82

"We are standing on the threshold of a new and exciting era in American agriculture...the work that we do will be spotlighted as we meet the challenges that await each of us in the future."—
John Block, Secretary of Agriculture at Outlook '82 Conference

THEY gathered together from virtually all corners of the nation, maps and charts in hand, heavily armed with statistics and trends, facts and figures—and all were there for one reason alone: to predict the future of U.S. agriculture.

Most would agree it's no easy task. But top-notch ag economists and analysts assembled at the USDA's 58th annual Agricultural Outlook Conference in Washington, D.C., in November accepted the challenge with gusto. "Outlook '82" provided the forum for a select group of farm economy experts to discuss the question lingering foremost on the collective minds of the country's agriculturists: "how will the farmer fare in 1982?" Making accurate predictions for 1982 becomes even more challenging in light of a new farm bill and the sweeping changes made from within the new administration. But pinpointing future trends via use of statistics and advanced data-gathering systems allow these experts to develop solid, reliable forecasts.

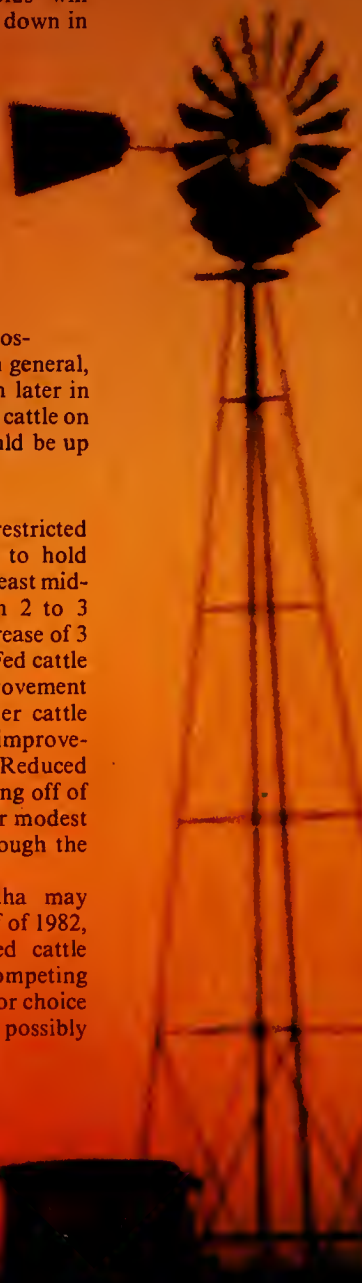
What's ahead for U.S. Agriculture? No one knows for sure, but you can bet these folks have the inside track. Here are their predictions for most of the major commodities farmed by FFA members.

Feed grains

Although early predictions for the 1981 U.S. crop ran well below the 1979 record harvest, timely rainfall and above-normal temperatures had economists predicting 245 million tons as of last October.

That figure is 24 percent higher than last year. Part of the reason is the 1981 corn crop, which looks to finish at a record 8.08 billion bushels—22 percent higher than a year earlier.

Analysts say these high yields will probably force feed grain prices down in the coming year. Look for corn prices at the farm to average between $2.60 and $2.90 per bushel for the 1981-82 crop year, down from the record $3.10 in 1980--81. Expect sorghum to average in the $2.40 to $2.60 per bushel range and barley to go well below the $2.91 per bushel average of the year before, possibly in the $2.35-$2.50 range. In general, grain prices should gain strength later in the marketing year as numbers of cattle on feed and broiler production should be up from a year earlier.



Beef

Slow economic growth and restricted consumer budgets are expected to hold down beef price gains through at least mid-1982. Beef production has risen 2 to 3 percent in 1981 and a further increase of 3 to 4 percent is expected in 1982. Fed cattle prices will show only modest improvement over the 1981 average and feeder cattle prices may show slightly more improvement as production costs decline. Reduced fed cattle marketings and a leveling off of nonfed slaughter should allow for modest increases in fed cattle prices through the first half of 1982.

Choice steer prices at Omaha may average $66 to $70 in the first half of 1982, but will be offset by larger fed cattle supplies and large supplies of competing meats in the second half. Watch for choice steer prices next summer to possibly

(Continued on Page 32)

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The Pilgrimage to Mount

By Harriet Verzagt

FIRST Farmer of America—that's the way the nearly half-million members of the Future Farmers of America think of George Washington.

The Future Farmers of America is a national student organization, chartered by Congress as an integral part of instruction in vocational agriculture. Founded in 1928, this organization was invited to take part in the Bicentennial celebration of the birth of George Washington in 1932. And take part they did! Chapters all over the country took an active role in the celebration within their chapters, schools and communities. The national FFA organization had a monthly program on the NBC radio network's "Farm and Home Hour" and devoted several segments to skits and speeches about Washington's role as "First Farmer."

At their national convention in 1932, the members voted unanimously to hold a pilgrimage to visit the homes of their two patron saints—George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. The trip was planned for June, 1933. They came from throughout the United States and the Territory of Hawaii—over 2,000 boys (girls were not invited to join the organization until 1969) and their teachers.

Much preparation was required for this Depression-era trip. Information was sent to every chapter including the advice that each student should bring $15 to cover his expenses for the three days in the Washington-Mount Vernon-Charlottesville area. It was felt that not enough cars would be available in Charlottesville to transport the students from the train depot to Monticello and then to the University of Virginia campus where the Virginia FFA and the city of Charlottesville would host a barbecue picnic. Each member was advised to bring $2.50 for the round-trip bus fare from Washington to Charlottesville (about 250 miles round-trip) in the buses chartered for that purpose. Hotel rooms with from two to six boys in a room cost 75 cents to $1 each. Students who wanted to camp out were offered tourist camp accommodations in cabins, rooms and tents at 50 cents each plus 20 cents for pillows and blankets if they didn't bring their own. The charge to pitch a 12-foot by 12-foot tent was 50 cents a day. The charge for a tent that held more than four people was $1. Space for a pup tent was 10 cents a day. The students were told to set aside $5 to cover cost of meals for the three days and 25 cents for a movie at the Fox Theater.

Registration started on Monday morning, June 12, and was followed by a visit to the White House. President Roosevelt came out on a balcony and addressed the group—his largest audience since his inauguration. The trip on sightseeing buses to Arlington Cemetery for a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (there was only one of them then), and to Alexandria and Mount Vernon cost the students 75 cents each—and this included admission to Mount Vernon. That evening there was a trip to Glen Echo Amusement Park via trollies. The next day the FFA members visited Congress and then took a bus tour of Washington. Wednesday, July 14—Flag Day—was set aside for the trip to Charlottesville. The FFA had been invited by the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation to dedicate a room in Monticello "to the ideals of the Future Farmers of America." Each state association designated one membe as official representative and he was instructed to bring along some high-quality agricultural product from his state such as a small carton of seed potatoes, ear of corn, honey, sheaf of wheat, or other items. The South Sun Room was set aside as the FFA room and during the flag ceremony on the west porch, the agricultural products were placed on the steps. The group toured Monticello, placed a wreath on Thomas Jefferson's grave and visited nearby Ash Lawn, home of President James Monroe. There was a national radio broadcast by the FFA on the NBC network that day as well.

One vocational agriculture instructor in Wisconsin decided to come on the pilgrimage and bring along his wife and three chapter members. He had a new V8 Ford coupe. He and his wife shared the front seat with one member and the other two boys sat in the rumble seat. They pulled a luggage trailer—with two wooden wheels—and once on the way had to park the trailer in a pond overnight so the wheels would swell and fit tight again so they could continue on the trip.

One of the highlights of their trip was the visit to the White House. They were initially very disappointed because they were late and had to stand at the rear of the crowd. Imagine their excitement when, at the end of President Roosevelt's remarks, a photographer standing on the top of his truck in back of the crowd called out for the boys to turn around to have the group picture made. Our friends from Wisconsin are forever caught in that old photograph, right in the front center!

A few years after the pilgrimage, the

Vernon

FFA members from practically all corners of the nation gathered together at George Washington's home in Mount Vernon, Virginia, in 1933 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birthday of FFA's Patron Saint. This year we celebrate his 250th anniversary.

leaders of FFA were searching for property for a national camp. They selected a site on what had been Washington's Dogue Run Farm, between Woodlawn mansion and Washington's reconstructed Grist Mill. Barracks for a national camp were built in 1940 but the camp was not used during the period of World War II. In the late 1940s it was decided that the camp should be closed but the new National FFA Supply Service should be housed temporarily in the barracks. Later the official magazine, *The National FUTURE FARMER,* joined the Supply Service at the Dogue Run Farm site. In 1956, ground was broken for a large brick headquarters building which also houses the program division, administrative offices and alumni.

Each May for two days the front lawn of the National FFA Center becomes the site of the Farm-on-the-Lawn program where area children come to pet farm animals, see farm equipment, visit with FFA chapter members, learn how food is grown, see sheep sheared and have a happy romp through the haystack. This July the FFA National Hall of Achievement will be open to the public showing displays about agriculture and the FFA.

Washington The Farmer

FIRST in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen, was Light-Horse Harry Lee's description of George Washington. But President Calvin Coolidge, in his address to the joint session of Congress on Washington's 200th birthday, quoted a 1785 visitor to Mount Vernon as saying that "Washington's greatest pride was to be thought the first farmer in America." He was perhaps the first farmer-agribusinessman in America to use truly scientific experimental methods.

As a young man Washington took over control of Mount Vernon and did as his neighbors did—planted tobacco. But after realizing that tobacco depleted the soil, he began to experiment with other crops and other ways of farming. The soil of Mount Vernon was a problem, consisting of a thin, weak layer of top soil over a thick layer of heavy clay. Washington never overcame the problem of the clay. His Mount Vernon farms were not very profitable despite all of his efforts to improve them. He had no patience with people who were content to use the old ways inherited from their fathers and always sought the newer, better methods. He was willing and anxious to use his resources, his time and energies, for progress.

Washington experimented with several designs for plows and designed a seed drill which automatically planted seeds in the furrows. He counted the number of seeds required to plant an area and gave that exact amount to his overseers. He had the seed mixed with dry soil to facilitate planting and to prevent theft of the seeds. He experimented with many different crops and by 1766 no longer grew tobacco.

Washington was away from Mount Vernon for six years during the American Revolution. During his two terms as President of the United States, he kept in constant touch with his managers and overseers and sent long letters of instructions home to Mount Vernon. Washington had subdivided his 8,000 acres into five adjacent farms and put a manager in charge of each farm. The managers were required to give written reports each Saturday, and Washington transferred the information into his ledgers. He kept detailed records of his crop rotations and experiments, his crop harvests, the number of slaves and servants living on the farms, and similar information. When he was away, the practice of weekly reports continued. For this reason, we have many detailed records of Washington's management of Mount Vernon.

He designed a 16-sided or round barn to be built on the Dogue Run Farm, constructed of bricks made on the site. The foundation of this barn has been found in recent years through a survey made by three old maps—two by Washington and one by a Mr. Gillingham, one of the Quakers who bought Woodlawn Plantation (formerly Dogue Run Farm) from George Washington's great nephew in the mid-nineteenth century. Both the grist mill and the 16-sided barn disappeared in the last half of the nineteenth century. The mill has been rebuilt and is open to the public. The barn has not been rebuilt.

It is very evident from references spread throughout Washington's writings that he received great joy in farming and would have been content to have spent his life at Mount Vernon in that occupation which was always his favorite. It is fortunate for our nation that he did not, but we must not forget that it was his first love and that he believed America would become an agricultural nation. Washington really was the First Farmer of America.

Vo-Ag/FFA Leads to Teaching Career

By Kelly J. Boldan

DURING the early 1960's a young man's disappointments and dislike for school had brought him to the brink of quitting. But, with encouragement from a friend and inspiration from the FFA and vocational agriculture, Charles I. Funk has become an outstanding vo-ag instructor and FFA advisor, with a career highlighted by his being named Minnesota's 1979 Teacher of the Year.

Raised on a farm near Nimrod, 160 miles north of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Funk generally missed an average of 35 school days a year due to farm work, trapping and harvesting of wild rice.

Funk started his education in a rural school and later attended high school in Sebeka about 15 miles away.

As a 1962 high school freshman, Funk joined the FFA. "It was the only extra-curricular activity I could be in," he says, because he was the only boy among seven children and had many chores.

Funk's first project was a dairy heifer calf which he purchased with money saved from trapping earnings. As a Greenhand, Funk was a member of the chapter's soil, general livestock and dairy judging teams.

He ran for chapter office that first year, but lost. Later, he hoped to be named star Chapter Greenhand. "I thought I had the Greenhand award cinched," Funk recalls. "The guy that beat me was Tom Schulz, a friend of mine, who later served as a state FFA president of the Minnesota Association. I would always be finishing second to him."

During his sophomore year, Funk was a member of the dairy judging and soil judging teams and once more ran for chapter office. Again, he was beaten by Schulz.

In the fall of 1964, Funk was to be a junior but had no intention of returning to school. He was going to be 16 on September 9, old enough to quit school under Minnesota law.

But Funk did return to school in September at the urging of his friend and competitor, Schulz. "Tom talked me into going back because he believed I had a chance to be a chapter representative at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City," Funk remembers.

In October, he was selected to attend the national convention. Until this trip, Funk had not even been to Minneapolis-St. Paul.

"The biggest thing I remember was seeing the National FFA President, Nels Ackerson. I was overwhelmed that another FFA member with that blue jacket could handle himself so well in front of such a large audience," Funk says.

"I was just awed by the events at the convention and the hotels and freeways. It was hard to comprehend all of it and it opened a whole new horizon in my life," Funk says.

During the trip back to Minnesota, Funk began talking with his advisor, Orville Thomas, and discovered that many FFA members in Kansas City were there because of help and assistance from their advisors. "Before I returned home, I had made a commitment to become a vocational-agriculture teacher and FFA advisor," Funk says. "At the time, I did not realize the requirements of becoming a vo-ag teacher, but I learned."

Later that year, Funk was a member of the farm management team, which won a trip to the state contest. He also served as a chapter delegate at the state FFA convention.

That spring, Funk finally became a chapter officer. He was elected vice president and served with Schulz, who was elected president. As a senior, Funk joined the Future Teachers of America and became serious about his education.

"As a senior, I had to make changes and start planning for college. I had to take a full-credit load to complete all the college prep courses, which didn't leave me much time," he says.

That year he was on the farm management team, which again qualified for state. But something more important happened that spring: Funk received his State Farmer degree.

"It was one of the biggest thrills of my life when I received my State Farmer degree," Funk says. Later in the month, he graduated from Sebeka High School and enrolled at the University of Minnesota at Morris.

The following year, he transferred to the University of Minnesota at St. Paul, the only college with an agriculture education major in Minnesota. In the fall of 1970, Funk began teaching vocational agriculture in Motley, Minnesota and completed his final course in 1971 for his graduation from the University of Minnesota.

"When I started teaching, the only reason was FFA. It is the best tool a vo-ag teacher has. I sincerely believe the best

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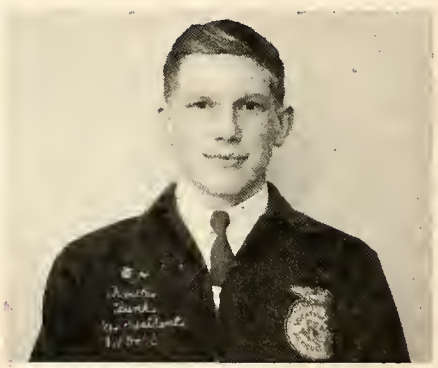

Above left, Charles Funk as FFA member, and right, as vo-ag instructor; Below, Mr. Funk teaches skills utilizing the motto "Learning by Doing."

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Learning From An Expert

Russ Brannen travels the midwest, teaching students what it takes to make a good show steer.

Cattle showing expert Russ Brannen gives tips to FFA members and other participants throughout the midwest.

PUT together 15 head of show cattle, a group of FFA members and their parents, and an ex-sash-and-door maker turned fitting and grooming expert and you end up with a cattle grooming school that's as fun as it is informative. The man behind this traveling school is Russ Brannen, a retired consultant for Kent Feeds' Junior Feeder Department and a famous figure around fairs and cattle shows all over the Midwest.

Brannen knows what it takes to make a good show steer. He proved that by taking home 37 trophies for champions and reserve champions in the 11 years he showed cattle. He is also an experienced cattle judge and still judges a few shows a year.

A native of Kansas, Brannen moved to Iowa by way of South Dakota in the '30s and has been there ever since. He now lives just outside of Muscatine, Iowa, with his wife Dorothy on a spread he calls "Eight Ball Acres."

After doing "a little bit of everything," which he says includes laboring in a sash and door company, working for the Iowa Poultry Producer's Association, and owning his own feed company, Brannen went to work for Kent Feeds in 1947. In 1950, he convinced that company to start a Junior Feeder Department and to let him conduct a few fitting and grooming schools for the young cattle producers who came to him with questions. Brannen initially expected demand for the schools to be low and the interest in them to drop off quickly.

"We started with the idea we'd only be doing it for three years," Brannen says, "but we turned down ten schools for every one we held that first year." This year, 32 years after the program was initiated, the demand is still strong.

"We put on close to 40 schools between the first of June and the nineteenth of July last year," he says. "We've been in nine states, so we travel the Midwest pretty well."

Brannen covers everything in his schools from the time a calf is purchased until the time it is sold. Participants, often from FFA chapters/vo-ag programs or 4-H groups, are given practical advice and tips that will help them turn out better show cattle.

"We show them showmanship, grooming and little training—just about give them the works," Brannen says. Brannen's schools are designed to provide as much practical, hands-on experience as they can.

"We usually hold them on fairgrounds," Brannen says, "and we'll do several on farms. A group will gather at one farm and they'll have the equipment there. We take everything we need except a blocking chute. If they want some feet trimmed they'll have to have a table and stock but that's about all they need."

Brannen employs the help of a student, often from a local FFA chapter, when he puts on his schools. The usual procedure is for Brannen to explain a grooming technique or to give pointers on showmanship while the helper demonstrates.

Brannen's son was the first one to work with him. After that the schools just kept growing, Brannen says. "Since I started I've had 36 different students over the years who have worked with me. Usually they have their driver's license and they're just about to graduate from high school or they're freshmen in college. I try to get them so they can help me for three or four years." The help his assistants give him is vital because of the large scale of some of his schools.

"Usually we try to have participants bring two calves each," Brannen says. "We'll work showmanship with one and trimming with another. In grooming we might pick out a calf that they'll say the hair isn't long enough to groom. So we groom that calf just to show them it can be done."

With that many cattle, Brannen says, a session can get pretty time consuming. "At one show a couple years ago," he says, "20 to 25 head of cattle showed up. Everybody brought their own blocking chutes and we set them up in a big building. We clipped and groomed one calf and then let the students go to work on their own."

Brannen is a firm believer in parents helping out with students' show cattle. "I like to have the parents come along," he says, "because they'll come up to me afterwards and say, 'Well, y'know, it's been 15 years since I showed calves and I don't know what I'm supposed to do anymore."

Brannen likes to have parents at the schools for another reason, too. "After the students come to the schools, they go home and say, 'Well, that ain't what Russ told us.' But if parents are there they can understand *why* you suggest they do it this way."

Many parents have trouble preparing show cattle today, Brannen says, since cattle have changed drastically in the last ten or 15 years. Sometimes the parents don't realize just how large those changes have been. But some things haven't changed, however. Brannen says a good showman 20 years ago would still be a good showman today, as long as he/she

(Continued on Page 41)

Teaching

(Continued from Page 28)

friend a teacher has is FFA because it gives the kids a chance to learn by doing," Funk says.

"When that member who has had little success in anything else in school, academically or as an athlete, can find success in FFA, that is most important," he says.

Funk believes that no matter what an individual's resources are, FFA has something to offer anyone because there are so many opportunities for success. "Anyone can succeed in the FFA organization if they remember two things: first, never be a quitter and second, always set and strive for goals," Funk says.

Working with members is the high point of Funk's FFA involvement. He says it is his educational and personal philosophy to go to the home to see the member and get to know the student as an individual. "I believe that one day on a home visit will accomplish more than two years of contact with a student in the classroom," Funk says.

The first thing Funk did at Motley was purchase a Polaroid camera to provide publicity for chapter members. "Just a little publicity can turn a student on more than anything else," Funk says.

Funk has been turning students on to FFA for over a decade now. The Motley chapter has grown from 30 to nearly 100, even as enrollment declines in the school district.

The Motley FFA Chapter has continually had State Farmer degree recipients each year in the past decade and four have received the American Farmer degree, never before achieved by a Motley FFA member before Funk's arrival. Two Motley FFA members have been elected state FFA officers and other have served as district and regional officers.

"It is the FFA motto of "Learning by Doing" that is important because this is where the final product all comes together, when the student starts putting the knowledge to work. And it still works for me today," Funk says.

"Go steady? I'd love to! Who is this?"

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Ag Outlook

(Continued from Page 24)

average slightly higher than the first half of the year, before declining again to $66 to $70.

Dairy

Total milk production in 1982 may be about the same as 1981's record production, with gains in the first half of the year possibly offset somewhat by lower production later in the year. The oversupply has been reflected in the price received by farmers. In September of 1981, the all-milk price was $13.70 per 100 pounds, up less than 4 percent from a year earlier, compared with 8 to 10 percent gains in the first quarter of 1981.

For all of 1982, farm milk prices may only increase by 1 to 2 percent from 1981. First-half prices will be about the same as a year earlier as excess supplies persist. If production adjustments occur during the second half and the general economy improves, prices will likely move above the early-1982 levels.

Wheat

The 1981 U.S. wheat crop was a record 2.75 billion bushels, up 16 percent from the year before. This huge crop can be attributed to a 10 percent increase in planted acreage, a nearly 14 percent increase in harvested acreage and a near record yield of 34.1 bushels per acre, about 1 bushel higher than in 1980.

Prospects for a slight reduction in world production outside of the U.S. coupled with increased world trade suggests a dramatic 1981-82 expansion in U.S. exports. With more than adequate supplies to meet the burgeoning demand, overseas shipments of U.S. wheat are projected to be a record 1.9 billion bushels. Domestic use of wheat is expected to be at record levels this year. And, although wheat prices declined 6 percent from June-September in 1981 due to the huge harvest and other factors, farm prices are expected to advance to above the $4.00 mark and may approach the lower $4.48 reserve trigger price during the latter part of the 1981-82 marketing year. Wheat prices for the season are expected to range from $3.80 to $3.95, slightly less than the 1980 average of $3.96 per bushel.

Hogs

Through the first nine months of 1981 pork output was down 5 percent from a year earlier. For the entire 1981 year, production will be almost 15.5 billion pounds, 6 percent less than in 1980, but still the second-largest output on record.

The high level of pork production over the past three years has caused depressed hog prices. But recent cutbacks in production have helped strengthen prices and cutbacks are predicted to continue into 1982. First quarter 1982 hog slaughter is expected to be down 7 to 9 percent from the year-earlier level and the decrease is expected to go 4 to 6 percent lower in the second quarter of 1982 compared to April-June, 1981, levels. Even with these cutbacks, however, supply will continue to hold relatively large, causing hog prices in 1982 to average between $46 and $48 per cwt. for barrows and gilts—up only $4 to $6 from the January-June, 1981, average. Continued lower production in the second half of 1982 may cause supply to lighten, causing prices to average around $50 per cwt.

Soybeans

Based on conditions in October of 1981, U.S. soybean production looks to finish up at 2.1 billion bushels, 18 percent above 1980. At 66.9 million acres, harvested acreage in 1981 is one million below 1980, but predicted yields of 31.5 bushels per acre are 19 percent higher. With beginning stocks of 320 million bushels, soybean supplies for 1981-82 are placed at 2.43 billion bushels, 13 percent above 1980-81, and only slightly lower than record supplies of 1979-80. As a result of this season's increase in supply and declining oil and meal prices, soybean prices are predicted to fall sharply. Farm prices are expected to average in the $5.50-$7.00 per bushel range, down from the 1980-81 average of $7.61.

Poultry

Poultry and egg producers can look forward to lower feed costs in 1982, with poultry and egg prices averaging above 1981 levels. However, prices are expected to be weak in the first half of 1982 as consumer budgets tighten and other high protein food supplies remain large. If producers reduce output in the first half of 1982, egg prices may average 73 to 75 cents per dozen, up from the 70 cents in 1981. Egg prices in the second half of 1982 are expected to average 76 to 78 cents per dozen as the economy improves and demand increases for high protein foods.

Broiler prices in 1982 are expected to strengthen slightly from 1981 levels. Prices for young turkey hens may average 53 to 57 cents during the first half of 1982, down from 62 cents in 1981. Turkey production is expected to be down in the first half of 1982 and as the economy picks up, turkey prices may average 67 to 71 cents per pound by the second half of the year.

Cotton

With production likely to rise by 4.4 million bales but total use up by only 1.4 million, stocks as of August of 1982 are expected to increase sharply to 5 million bales, compared to 2.7 million bales last August. Farmers could end up planting between 13.2 and 14.2 million acres this spring and based on current prices, plantings in the upper half are more likely. Analysts say the primary factor in determining next year's seasonal supply/demand conditions and thus prices, will be weather, specifically amount of rainfall and heat.

Farm Economy

In general, U.S. farmers face lean economic prospects through 1982 due to bumper crops and a continued sluggish U.S. and world economy. Some improvement is likely during the second half of next year, but the overall farm income outlook isn't very promising.

Star Farmers

(Continued from Page 17)

seven and gradually expanded his swine program throughout his growing years. This enabled him to get the capital needed for machinery purchases when he started farming. He currently rents cropland and has interest in the family's diversified crop and livestock operation, but his main financial burden now is the 367-acre farm he purchased eight months after he graduated from high school.

"I went to several different loan agencies," he says. "The Federal Land Bank and FmHA provided my real estate loans, and the FmHA and my local bank provided the operating loans.

"It seems like I'm buried up to my neck in loans," Doug says somewhat ruefully. "It's quite an adjustment, borrowing over $300,000 . . . but you have to start somewhere."

Doug says prospective farmers need to rely on someone such as parents, relatives or friends for equity if they expect to make a successful start in farming. "Without having assets or equity, there's no way you'd be able to get the trust or faith from your loan organizations in the community," he stresses. "Community relations are an important part and the FFA plays a big part in that."

Doug's advice for Star Farmer hopefuls: "Set your goals early, and keep three things in mind—first, you must think in your mind that you can achieve your goals; second, believe in them; and third, make sure they are conceivable and realistic."

"I had smaller goals at first, like winning Star Greenhand," he says. "My father was the first Star Farmer of Kansas, and it was always my goal to try to surpass my father's achievements. So eventually, it became my goal to become Star State Farmer and then Star Farmer of America."

Don't be discouraged by debt, Doug says, because it's almost impossible to start farming without a debt load. "The best thing is to be optimistic about it," he says. "If you're young and going to be a hard worker, you're going to make it."

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"There'll Always Be Challenges"

He started farming independently at age 17; now, Bryan Sommer uses his willing-to-learn attitude to move ever-forward in his new career.

By Michael Wilson

MOST young farmers will tell you that launching a career in production agriculture is no easy task these days. And making that move without a father's farming experience and guidance can be downright dangerous. But Bryan Sommer, 1981 national Crop Proficiency winner, is one Future Farmer who defied the odds—and when the opportunity to farm came along, he just couldn't resist.

"I've never wanted to do anything else," says the sandy-haired FFA'er from Fairfax, Minnesota. "Farming's what I like to

(Continued on Page 36)

Photos by Author

A watchful eye is all-important in the business of farming: Here Bryan checks the soybean crop for moisture just prior to harvest. Below, Bryan and Advisor Blair Anderson discuss the hog operation.

Above, Bryan loads corn into wagon prior to a feed-grinding session.

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Challenges

(Continued from Page 34)

do and along with that comes responsibility." In Bryan's case, however, it's an understatement. The 20-year-old FFA member has been farming on his own since his junior year in high school. He rented his grandmother's 180-acre farm, took out a loan, and with determination plus a solid background invocational agriculture instruction began his farming career.

His father? "He's all for it," Bryan says. But Mr. Sommer works in the construction business, so the FFA member had to establish himself without the "luxury" of growing up on a farm.

"I'm farming on my own," Bryan observes in a matter-of-fact tone, "most everyone else my age is in partnership with their father." Fairfax ag instructor and Bryan's FFA Advisor Richard Beltz puts it in a more direct light. "Bryan's had more responsibility than most high school kids his age. He's had the determination and put forth the hard work to make a successful farming operation."

Growing up in the rich cropland area of southeastern Minnesota afforded Bryan his first taste of farming as a youngster on his grandfather's spread.

"When he first let me drive a tractor I was so small I didn't even know how to stop the thing," Bryan recalls, laughing. "I didn't really take farming all that seriously—I just had fun at it."

He took to the farm like a duck on water and consequently his grandfather handed over more and more responsibility as Bryan grew older. When grandfather passed away Bryan's sophomore year, the Fairfax FFA member faced a tough decision: whether or not to try his luck farming on his own. At the time, Bryan's father was starting his own lumber company and made it clear it would be Bryan alone who would operate and finance the farming venture.

After much thought, Bryan decided to grab the opportunity. He rented the land from his grandmother and started farming his junior year in high school.

"Before, I just came out here and did the work," Bryan shares, "but now I have to make all my own decisions. I found if I wanted to farm, I had to do it all on my own."

He quickly went to work modernizing the farm and applied for an FmHA loan to buy a new tractor. "I went to see the loan people a number of times," Bryan says. Perserverance, coupled with help from Fairfax Chapter Advisors Beltz and Blair Anderson and a sparkling set of records helped Bryan's loan come through with room to spare.

BRYAN: "Every time something happens it's a learning experience."

Bryan's Supervised Occupational Experience Program started out as soybeans and wheat in partnership with his grandfather. But when he started farming full time, he used the project to launch his cropping program. Later, corn was added as a result of the new hog facility Bryan came up with in 1980.

"My grandpa had a big cement pit silo and it didn't cost us much to put a roof on it," he explains. "We can get quite a few hogs in there, and it works pretty good." The swine operation keeps Bryan busy maintaining 45 sows in the farrow-to-finish system. In addition, he's rented more acreage and currently farms 300 acres of cropland.

Bryan's concern for soil conservation led to improved tillage practices on the farm as well.

"I go out and chisel bean ground, which leaves stubble on the top, and really cuts down on wind erosion," he stresses. "I also try to go over a field just once—it takes less fuel as well as cuts down on erosion."

Bryan is fast becoming an expert at his business. His skills at marketing, cropping and record keeping have become greater as he gains more experience at his new profession. But the accomplishments haven't come overnight. He says grain marketing, for example, was his biggest challenge.

"I got together some literature on the subject and talked to three different elevator managers, a banker and my advisor," he says. "I couldn't see how things like the dollar overseas or high interest rates affected the markets. But now, I think I know about that."

Indeed he does—through shrewd contracting and hedging of his crop, Bryan has managed to lock in higher-than-market prices per bushel. This past fall saw Bryan's bountiful crops yield 150 bushel-per-acre corn and 50 bushel-per-acre soybeans. He says over half of the crop is stored for sale next summer, "when prices look better."

"I try to watch the markets in advance and contract most of my crops," says the Minnesota farmer, adding, "the summer months' prices are supposed to be the highest, so I try to watch and contract for the fall and next spring because that's when most of my expenses occur.

"I just can't afford bad prices 'cause they can really hurt you when you're just starting out," he says grimly.

Looking ahead, Bryan says his first priority is to continue getting established in his career. That means constantly striving to gain more knowledge. "Every time something happens, it's a learning experience," he says. Mr. Beltz agrees, adding, "Bryan's invested a lot of time in learning how to do several of these things and he's one of the few people his age who have had 100 percent managerial control."

When asked what he hoped the future would bring, Bryan's answer rings forth with urgency, "lower interest rates and higher markets!" Then, after a smile and a pause, his mood changes to reflective. "There'll always be challenges," he says thoughtfully.

"It's like my dad says, 'You don't have to worry, you're young yet, you can start over again.' I suppose that, in a way, relieves a little pressure. But I don't *want* to blow it the first time around—and I don't think I'm going to."

Supplied with a zesty thirst for knowledge, Bryan keeps a close tab on both records and resources.

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Above, Lura and her father, Jerry, survey a herd of buffalo; at right: Taking care of the horses—a favorite pastime.

Where the Buffalo Roam

This South Dakota FFA member lives and works on the world's largest privately-owned buffalo ranch.

LURA Houck's silky-blond hair shimmers against the bright South Dakota sun as she busily sets about finishing chores on her family's sprawling ranch near Pierre, South Dakota. The 18-yearold FFA member has just one more item on her agenda before her day is through—feeding the orphan calf. With bottle in hand, she heads for the corral where the hungry critter bawls with anticipation of another hot meal.

Looking closer, though, you'll find the cute little "critter" is no typical calf—it's a *buffalo* calf, just one of several hundred buffalo here at "Standing Butte Ranch," home of the world's largest privatelyowned buffalo herd.

Lura (pronounced "Lər'-a"), is a part of a family corporation that operates this 2,500-head conglomerate, located in the heart of South Dakota's cattle country. She obviously doesn't look much like an ordinary "ranchhand," with her petite figure and golden hair, but don't let that fool you. When she isn't busy with school and her duties as FFA chapter secretary, Lura can be found hard at work on the ranch, involved in practically all aspects of managing this unusual herd.

Of course, one needs to have energy just to survive out here. Standing Butte Ranch operates on a seemingly endless 55,000 acres of rolling hills and rangeland, stretching far into the infinite horizon. Deer and antelope actually play here, and the rugged panorama seems to jump straight out from a cowboy or western novel.

The ranch was purchased 23 years ago by the family corporation known to all as "Triple U Incorporated." The family started with cattle and a few buffalo, but Mr. Houck, Lura's father, says the more they saw of the buffalo, the better family members liked them and soon the ranch turned primarily to buffalo production.

But why buffalo? According to Mr. Houck and Lura, buffalo hold several advantages over a beef cattle operation.

"Buffalo can survive the winter better than cattle," says Lura. "Cattle drift with the wind in a blizzard, where buffalo walk against the wind. They don't let themselves get blown into snowbanks or fences in a blizzard," she explains.

Also, buffalo can push through snow to forage, she continues, "whereas cattle have to be fed during the winter."

"They take care of themselves," agrees Mr. Houck. "We cut our labor force way down from when we had beef cattle."

Lura, who seems to know more about buffalo than any encyclopedia, adds more evidence to the testimony. "Buffalo are able to calve by themselves because they're

(Continued on Page 41)

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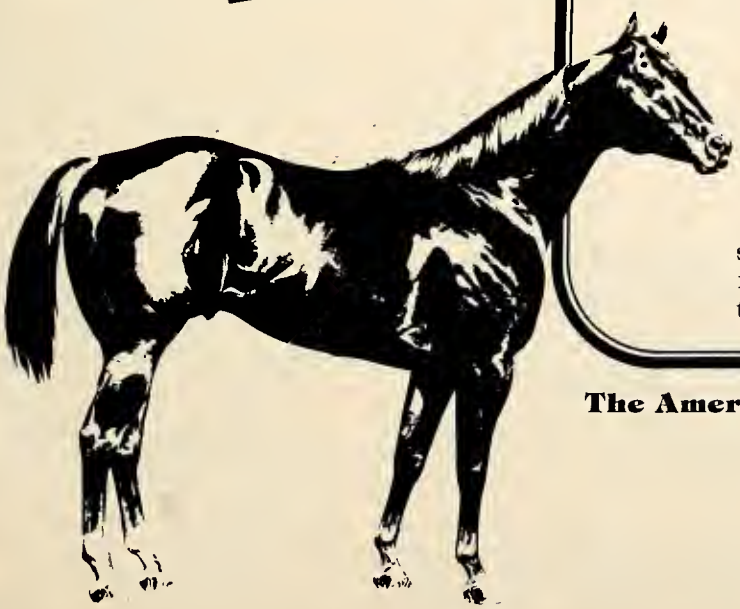

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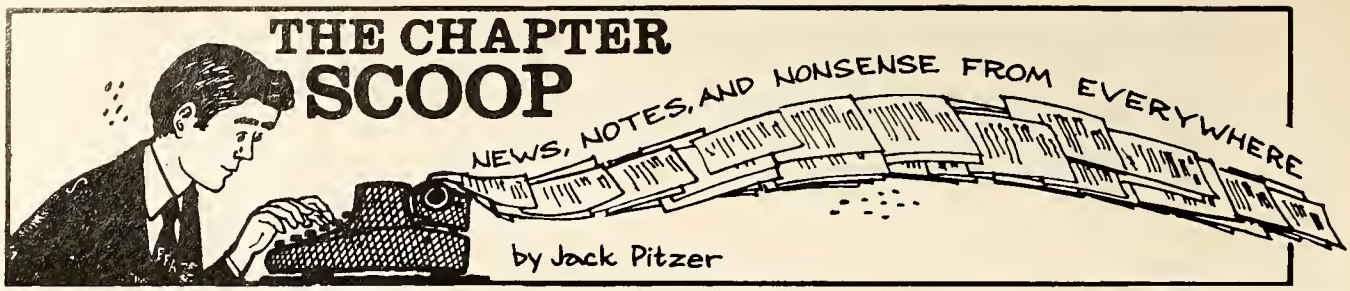


Thompson, IA, remodeled a building into a teen center and named it "The Den."

N-N-N

Clarinda, IA, had a yield guessing contest for their test plot.

N-N-N

Sorghum was harvested from *Fairfield*, IA, Chapter test plot and a jar of processed sorghum will be given to each member.

N-N-N

Advisor **Rhimer** and 13 members of *Colton*, CA, Chapter biked 50 miles to a beach area for a recreational event.

N-N-N

Four delegates from *Mayer*, AZ, to national convention traveled by train.

N-N-N

Of the 213 FFA members in *Strasburg*, VA, 62 are brothers or brother-sister combinations.

N-N-N

When kindergarten students visited *Armijo*, CA, ag department to see and pet farm animals, they were given packets of six silhouettes of various farm animals to serve as an activity learning source after the visit.

N-N-N

Big annual event of *South Side* FFA, AR, is an August meeting to bring everyone back together. According to the report we received, President **Steve Tapley** presided over the meeting and "closed it with watermelons for refreshments."

N-N-N

Scribner, NE, FFA held a garage sale in the vo-ag shop to raise money for a new building at the state leadership development center.

N-N-N

Two state officers visited *Hermiston*, OR, Chapter speaking at the regular monthly meeting and executive committee. One topic was student projects.

N-N-N

McKean, DE, sends their chapter newsletter to the national magazine staff.

N-N-N

Instead of waiting for someone to build new pens for the county fair, *Ubly*, MI, decided to do the building themselves. Enough wood was donated to the chapter to build 30 pens for members' exhibits.

N-N-N

Ten members of *Evergreen*, OH, FFA attended the National High-Powered Rifle School at Camp Perry, an Army installation in Ohio. The members and their advisor were coached by Army personnel on how to handle and fire an M-16 rifle. At the end students competed on a firing range.

N-N-N

Farmers in the area around *Peoria*, AZ, helped the FFA raise their cotton crop.

As a community service project, *Hatch*, NM, FFA raked leaves for free in yards of senior citizens.

N-N-N

All officers of *Payette*, ID, are involved in fall sports—**Pat, Mike, Keith, Gavin** and **Eddy** in football and **Cathy** in volleyball.

N-N-N

Shelby, MT, put on a "gong show" with acts from members at the slave sale.

N-N-N

Departing student teachers at *Wauseon*, OH, were given new FFA lab coats from the chapter to take to their first assignment.

N-N-N

Jonesville, MI, raised money to buy new welders for the shop by setting up a food stand at a local auction.

N-N-N

Increased response from readers seems to have come from our offer of $5 for each joke used on the magazine "Joke Page."

N-N-N

Every year *Fayetteville*, AR, has a holiday party for hearing impaired children.

N-N-N

The county sheriff spoke at *Stonewall Jackson*, VA, FFA meeting about how to protect their farm property from theft.

N-N-N

About 600 were served at annual *Wirt County*, WV, FFA-FHA beef barbeque.

N-N-N

Members of *Housatonic Valley*, CT, Chapter formed a veal-calf co-op. Sold shares to members on a three-calf project.

N-N-N

At annual degree night, *Martinsville*, IN, gave every Greenhand an FFA ID sign for their home. Plus a new FFA T-shirt for new Chapter Farmer degree holders.

N-N-N

Heber Springs, AR, is building park benches to give to a senior citizens' home in the spring.

N-N-N

During their county fair *Ephrata*, WA, members set up a mechanical bull for all the people who thought riding this kind of machine would be easy. They made $600 and had lots of fun doing it.

N-N-N

Three members of *Turner Ashby*, VA, Chapter placed first in the dairy bowl contest at their state fair.

N-N-N

Cuba, IL, Chapter sold butterfly pork chops and cider in their food stand during Spoon River Scenic Drive weekends in October. Ideal weather brought thousands to see the areas made famous in *Spoon River Anthology* by Edgar Lee Masters.

Iowa FFA Chapters have been providing grandstand ushers for 32 consecutive years at state fair. This year 56 chapters helped.

N-N-N

Dave Wilson took fourth place in a district crops judging contest representing *Hermiston*, OR, Chapter. He judged alfalfa hay, apples, potatoes, wheat and identified weeds.

N-N-N

Rhode Island FFA Chapter at *West Bay Vocational Technical School* built a 86-foot long foot bridge in a woodland area owned by the Audubon Society.

N-N-N

Wauseon, OH, put on a parliamentary procedure demonstration for all student organization leaders in their school. After the demonstration, the officers broke up into separate offices and discussed specific jobs.

N-N-N

A horticulture project for members in *District 214* FFA in IL, is to raise enough poinsettias so every member gets to take home one plant for his family.

N-N-N

More chapters should share news of their good chapter activity items. Although many reporters send us news, it is often the same thing everybody else is doing. There is surely one original idea being used in your chapter. Share it in "Scoop."

N-N-N

Many Greenhand initiations and Chapter Farmer degree ceremonies have been reported. *Selah*, WA, has a potluck supper, raises Chapter Farmer, has a district officer to speak. *Lamar*, CO, served a chili supper for a similar program. *Wallowa*, OR, holds the session in the shop with parents on hand to hear about FFA budget, curriculum, committees and planned activities, according to **Duane Olson**. Greenhands at *Staunton*, VA, wore bib overalls, straw hats, two different shoes and the usual "green" hants. *Black River*, OH, had an initiation week in October with Greenhands wearing green shirts on Monday, a dress and barn shoes on Tuesday, informal events like egg toss or penny races on Wednesday, farm-chore clothes on Thursday. Formal ceremony was held at the end of the week. **Jeff Duncan** describes the *Paris*, TX, Greenhand initiation as a stew supper for members and their parents. *Southeast*, OH, Greenhands (with the traditional "green" painted hands) also carried buckets around to provide trash pick-up service for their school. *Mexia*, TX, has an annual parent-member night with hand painting ceremonies, then refreshments.

Buffalo

(Continued from Page 38)

a wild animal by nature," she says. "With cattle you have to calve your first-year heifers out."

"The bulls don't have as much trouble with feed-related problems, compared to cattle, and buffalo seem to get along better on less grass," observes Mr. Houck, then adding, "I think they're probably comparable to cattle in feed grain efficiency."

The ranch produces about 900 head annually, but the number varies with the season, says Mr. Houck. Although many of the management practices on this ranch are similar to that of a cattle ranch, there are some obvious differences.

"Buffalo don't respect horses and they can outrun and outmaneuver them," says Lura, "so we use pickup trucks for roundup." Once the animals are brought into the corrals, workers must be careful to stay clear of the mammoth-like beasts. "When they get into confinement, they get scared and want out," Lura says emphatically. One quickly begins to understand the reason for the huge railroad-tie fences on the ranch's stockyard gates. "We still have some bulls who want to jump those fences," she adds, grinning.

Perhaps one of the most unique aspects of Standing Butte Ranch is the "in-house" slaughtering plant. As Lura explains it, the livestock are butchered right on the ranch. After the animals are shot and brought into the slaughterhouse, the carcasses are raised and skinned while the hide goes into the "hide house" to be salted. After the breastbone is split and offal (the entrails of a butchered animal) removed, the entire carcass is split in half. The halves are then washed, hung on a rail, weighed and placed in a cooler, ready to be shipped and marketed.

But exactly how well do buffalo products sell?

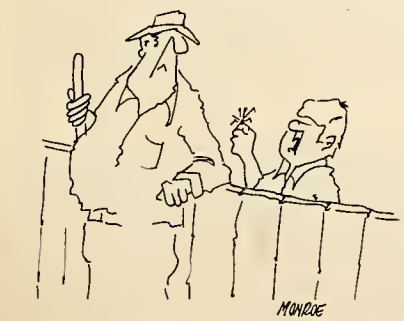
"There's a growing market for buffalo meat," says Mr. Houck, and Lura agrees, adding: "The meat goes out on semi-loads in quarters and both special cuts as well as quarters are air-freighted all over the nation."

Meat is not the only marketable item gleaned from buffalo. The salted hides are sent out to tanneries where they are turned into leather for furniture coverings, boots, gloves, rugs and a host of other products. Lura's family living room is comfortably decorated with buffalo leather chairs, rugs and sofas, a true-to-life testimony of the ranch's livelihood. A mounted buffalo head hangs on the wall as well.

Oh, yes, there's one more item. A good buffalo skull—just the bone, mind you—will go for between $25 and $50, says Lura. "A lot of people just want them to hang on their fence, mostly for decoration," she says.

Lura's busy days also include taking care of the ranch's stock of horses. Although they can't be used for buffalo roundup, horses are still mandatory for a ranch this size. "I've grown up on horses," she says, "I've been riding them since I was two years old."

Looking toward the future, Lura's plans revolve around living on a ranch, but with one exception to her current arrangement: she's engaged to a *cattle* rancher. But even though her home will no longer be "where the buffalo roam," she'll still be living the life she loves—ranching. Francis Murphy, her FFA advisor from the Pierre-Oahe Chapter, probably says it best when describing the sprightly, hard-working FFA'er. "When a job needs to be done, Lura does it," he says, then adds, "you've got the 'do-ers' and the 'non-doers' in any department and the 'do-ers' carry the load and get the job done. Lura's one of the 'do-ers.' "



"It's called Biological Control... I pick 'em off and stomp on 'em.

Cattle Showing

(Continued from Page 30)

remembers who is on display at the cattle show.

"The steer is supposed to be on display," Brannen says. "A good showman isn't noticed. But the poor showman—we call it over-showing— is the one that's out there showing off with fancy clothes or a ridiculous outfit just to attract attention. He's always backing his animal out in front of the judge and won't stay in line where he belongs.

"The guy that you hardly notice is usually the one who's presenting his animal the best and ends up placing the highest, too. Of course, a good showman will study his animal, know its weak and strong points and try to get the judge to notice the strong ones and forget the weak ones."

Grooming techniques have changed over the years, too. "I don't know if it's for the better or worse, though," Brannen says. "They turn out to be more work all the time."

Many of the clipping and grooming pointers Brannen includes in his schools are contained in a pamphlet he put together some years ago and has been updating periodically. He gives one to each student at his schools but he says interested people can also get one from a Kent Feeds dealer, too.

Included in the pamphlet is advice on clipping, grooming, finishing and other facets of raising successful show cattle. Here are some examples of advice in the pamphlet:

Clipping: The calves make a better appearance if their heads are clipped in front of a line running from the jaw line to directly back of the ear. Do not clip hair from the ears.

The tail should be clipped from the twist to the tail head which should be gradually tapered off so it appears to blend nicely with the rump.

Clipping and grooming: two of the most important aspects in preparing cattle for show.

Grooming: The use of a blower is very good for cleaning out dust and dirt but does not take the place of a brush for conditioning the hair and the hide.

Most of today's showmen prefer the coat to have a natural look. Training the hair to stand up will probably require the use of a liner or curry comb to start the hair standing up and out. This may take many days of hard work and patience. The calf should be wet, using either plain water or a weak milk dip solution.

The hair should then be lined or marked and brushed up until dry. After the hair starts to stay up you should be able to brush and comb the hair up without a curry comb. This will provide a more natural look without the liner marks showing.

Brannen starts setting up his schools around the first of March and he fills up his time on a first come, first served, basis. Brannen says it's fairly easy to get on his schedule if you live in the Midwest and anyone can receive his informational pamphlet by writing him. A group wanting a fitting and grooming school can call their area Kent dealer, contact Kent's Junior Feeder Department, Kent Feeds, Inc., 1600 Oregon Street, Muscatine, IA 52761, or write directly to Russ Brannen, Route #3, Muscatine, IA 52761.

Pardon Me, Your FFA Image Is Showing

Here are some guidelines to help make this year's chapter banquet a big success.

By Richard L. Crawford

MOST FFA chapters have a banquet or other type of recognition program each year. This can be the highlight of the FFA year or it can be a disaster. The chapter banquet is often the picture window of the FFA, where the public gets a good look at what the FFA is doing. In many chapters this may be the only time when a large number of people from the community have a chance to see the FFA in action. What the public sees through this window forms the impression which it has of the FFA. It is vital that what the public sees is what we really want them to see.

Good banquets are no accident. They must be well planned if they are to be high quality. One of the first questions FFA members must answer in planning their banquet is "What are we trying to accomplish with our banquet?" There are probably four main objectives of any chapter banquet:

1) to recognize the contributions and achievements of chapter members during the past year;

2) to allow *every* student to become involved in the learning process which accompanies planning and conducting a banquet;

3) to recognize the contributions of parents and other members of the community for their support of the chapter; and

4) to be one of the central activities in the chapter's public relations program.

There are many other goals and objectives a local chapter might have and which certainly should be added to the above list. The point is that there needs to be genuine objectives for holding a banquet other than simply because "we always had one in the past." These goals and objectives should be formulated among the members and advisors of the chapter.

The banquet can be one of the best opportunities to get all of the members of the chapter involved. Every member should have a responsibility in planning and/or conducting the banquet. Maybe Joe Greenhand isn't quite ready to have a speaking part at the banquet, but he just might be the perfect person to head up the decorations committee. Each member of the chapter will get excited about the banquet when he or she has a specific responsibility.

The banquet, to be most effective, must be well planned. A detailed timetable should be constructed well in advance (three months or more) of the banquet. The timetable should outline precisely when the various activities involved in planning the banquet should be completed. Once the timetable is completed, each person should try to meet or beat the deadline for their part.

Committees to plan the various parts of the banquet can be assigned in several different ways. Some chapters choose to appoint new committees just for planning the banquet. Other chapters assign the duties of planning the banquet to the standing committees. The method of selecting committees is not important. What is important is that all parts of planning the banquet be covered by someone.

The following is a suggested list of committee areas of responsibility which are needed to effectively plan a banquet:

1) Menu and Food
2) Cooking and Serving
3) Program
4) Invitations and Guests
5) Publicity
6) Decorations
7) Welcoming
8) Awards
9) Physical Arrangements
10) Entertainment
11) Clean-up

A chapter does not necessarily need to have 11 different banquet committees, but all these areas should be covered by the planning committees.

Committees need to begin their work early. A good place to start is with the report from last year's banquet if one is available. Committee members need to formulate just how to accomplish their part of the banquet and begin working.

The role of the advisor during the planning of the banquet is much the same as the role of the director of a play. The advisor should give advice when needed and assist the committees in thinking of each and every detail. The advisor should not be the "leading actor" in the banquet. The banquet belongs to the members and the members are the ones who should plan and execute the banquet.

After all responsibilities have been delegated and all details planned, the next step is to practice. As in a broadway play, the secret to a smooth-running banquet is practice. Everything from giving the welcome to closing the banquet must be rehearsed several times. The impressiveness of the banquet is usually directly proportional to the amount of practice. When speaking parts and the logistics of the banquet have been well rehearsed, members can be confident they know what they are doing and the advisor can relax and enjoy the banquet.

Whenever official ceremonies are to be used, they should be memorized. The honorary degree ceremony, installation of officers ceremony and opening and closing ceremony are most often used at the banquet. Each officer should learn his or her part and practice it as many times as needed to present it impressively.

No banquet is complete until the banquet committee chairmen, officers and advisor sit down and evaluate what happened at the banquet. This evaluation should take place the day after the banquet, while the ideas about the affair are still fresh. The result of this evaluation should be a permanent file, including written reports and suggestions from each of the banquet committee chairmen along with overall comments about the banquet. This file should be kept so that next year's planning committees won't make the same mistakes as this year's.

A good banquet helps to create a good window for the public to view the FFA. It also provides a great experience for all the members of the chapter.

Richard L. Crawford is vo-ag instructor at West Union High School in West Union, Ohio. He graduated in 1971 from West Union High where he served as chapter president for two years. He served as Ohio Southwest Sectional Vice President for one year and received the American Farmer degree. He graduated from Ohio State University with a combined BS-MS degree in Agricultural Education in 1975. He developed a module entitled "How to Plan and Conduct an Effective FFA Banquet," and also authored the booklet "Effective Banquets," available through the Ohio Curriculum Materials Service.

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FFA IN ACTION

Writing a computer program is a long job for members, left to right, Mickey Sheets, Doug Hergatt, Dave Wickham.

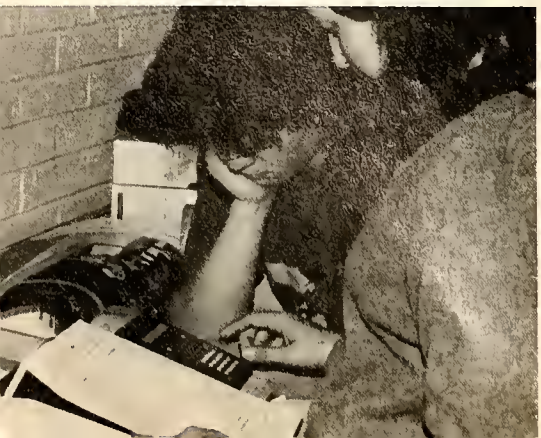
TERMINAL TRAINING

The use of computers is now widespread in agriculture and the Big Walnut FFA in Sunbury, Ohio, has been teaching its members a basic knowledge of them.

Students have been programming the Texas Instruments TI-59 calculators to run various agricultural problems. These problems range from crop yield checks to efficiency of farm business. The programs, approximately 350 steps each, were keyed in by the students from a program library.

Other members have been involved with the TRS-80 personal computer. A program, adaptable to most computers, was written and done by the students with the cooperation of the Ohio State University's Agricultural Education Department. The program consists of a computerized listing of the members' records and helps to eliminate errors in accounting. (*Beth Murphy, Reporter*)

Members Marcia Fichtelman and Debbie Wolfel are checking for errors in a program on the TI-59 calculator.



PARLIAMENTARILY PROPER

The fourth annual invitational parliamentary law contest for state association winners was hosted by Carthage, Missouri, FFA in November, 1981, and proved to be extremely successful.

The state winning teams involved this year were: Ravenwood, West Virginia; Bloom Carroll, Carroll, Ohio; Altus, Oklahoma; West Lyon, Inwood, Iowa; Plant City, Florida; Marana, Arizona; Mariner, Everett, Washington; Clinton Central, Michigantown, Indiana; Lakeland, Deepwater, Missouri; Leakesville, Mississippi; Henry, Paris, Tennessee; Arkansas City, Kansas; and Waverly, Nebraska.

Participants stayed in the homes of the Carthage FFA members in order to increase FFA awareness among states and chapters.

Tuesday, November 10, was reserved primarily for acquainting participants with rules, judges and hosts. A banquet, sponsored by MFA Incorporated, was held for all participants, advisors, judges and sponsors at 7:00 p.m. Contest demonstrations began at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 11. The demonstrations were similar to a chapter meeting and the strictest parliamentary law was observed. Demonstrations lasted up to ten minutes and teams were judged on their ability to use parliamentary procedure. Contestants were also given a written examination.

Serving as judges were: Jerry Crownover, presently an instructor of agriculture education at Southwest Missouri State University; Dr. Blannie Bowen, assistant professor, agriculture and extension, Mississippi State University; Mr. John Elliott, vocational agriculture, Ozark, Missouri; and Mr. Earnst Muncrief, retired vocational agriculture instructor, Marlow, Oklahoma.

The 1981 contest winner was Mariner High School of Everett, Washington. Second place gold was Plant City, Florida, and third place gold was Waverly, Nebraska.

PLANTS PRODUCE "GREEN STUFF"

The Zillah, Washington, FFA annual plant sale is held just before Christmas each year. This year, students from the basic and advanced ornamental horticulture class offered living gifts for sale to loved ones. The sale took place December 14 and 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the high school agriculture building and greenhouse. Some of the sale items for friends and relatives included terrariums, dish gardens, bonsai plants, Christmas plants, hanging basket plants, holiday green arrangements as in centerpieces, wreathes and dry flower arrangements. For those persons that wanted a special arrangement, corsage, terrarium or dry arrangement, a custom gift could be made to custom order. (*Scott Cleveringa*)

GOING TO SEE AN SOE

The Elgin, Ohio, freshman and sophomore vocational agriculture students visited various members' supervised occupational experience programs. Supervised occupational programs in agriculture are an important part of vocational agriculture and each student is required to have an organized experience program in order to apply what is learned in the classroom.

Programs were visited to see a swine operation, chinchillas and home improvement, work experience program on a poultry farm, a horse project, a sheep setup, a farm shop and a goat enterprise. In the afternoon the group toured former member Keith Williams' dairy farm where Bret Snyder has his work experience program.

The purpose of the tour was to give these younger members ideas for a work experience program of their own. (*Dale Murphy*)

SALES RECORD BROKEN AGAIN

An extraordinary feeling of anticipation filled the air as the Alex, Oklahoma, community gathered for the sixth year to support the local Future Farmers of America Chapter at their annual slave sale and chili supper. The question: Would last year's record sale price be broken?

A delicious meal donated by Tony's Food Market of Alex was prepared and served by the FFA mothers to 350.

The center of attention then turned to the "beauty" contest staged by the Greenhands as their initiation into the FFA.

But the highlight of the evening was the sale of the 39 FFA members and Advisor Tom Strickland as slaves.

The slaves brought an average of $378 for a total of $14,400 to top last year's record sale of $10,000. The highest bidder of the evening was Mr. and Mrs. Cecil who bought the chapter president for $2,000.

The Alex community is small, but has supported the FFA generously.

In appreciation for his services at all of the previous slave sales, chapter hats and T-shirts were presented to auctioneer Larry Howard and his family. (*Missy Thurston, Reporter*)

Westminster FFA, Westminster

Aurora FFA, Aurora

METRO FFA CHAPTERS PUT ON A SHOW

FFA members from six Denver, Colorado, metro chapters participated in the 1981 Home and Garden Show held at Currigan Hall. FFA members were responsible for designing their own gardens, building special effects materials and constructing their displays. Chapters participating were Aurora, Career Enrichment Park, Arapahoe County, Larimer County, St. Vrain Valley and Warren Center. Featured in the gardens were beds of perennials and annuals, deciduous trees, shrubs and evergreens. Some gardens featured decking of flagstone or redwood. Others had pools, fountains, dry stream beds and one garden featured an indoor plantscape.

Color was achieved in the gardens by the use of redwood, native dogwoods, aspen, sumac and many annuals and perennials including daffodils, tulips, coleus, dusty miller and marigolds.

The Governor's Award went to the Career Enrichment Park of Westminster. They were awarded first place for a stunning redwood deck with pool and the use of dogwoods, dark mulch, junipers and moss rock. Aurora took a close second place award. *(Laurie Mlak, Westminster FFA Reporter)*

The team members who worked on the Westminster display were (back row from left to right) Mitch Nearing, Bruce Smith, Jon Ziegler, Dave Weigand, Joe Schlaepfer (front row from left) Merlin Domben, Bernard Keete, Laurie Mlak and Arnold Chavez.

RIGHT ON TARGET

The Archbold, Ohio, FFA members had a "blast" at their annual trapshoot contest held recently at the Fulton County Sportsman's Club. After everyone had a chance to practice, the 15-shell competition began. Five members at a time took turns shooting and rotated positions every three shots.

When the smoke finally cleared at the end of the contest, freshman Kent Miller claimed first prize, hitting ten clay pigeons. Juniors Tim Short and Gary Waidelich hit nine each and placed second and third respectively, after a shoot-off. Luckily for the FFA members, Advisor Ralph Schroll, who hit 11 clay pigeons, shot only for fun. *(Tim Short, Reporter)*

OPPORTUNITY BOND

A new vo-ag expansion program for Lebanon Regional FFA in Connecticut was approved by a special town meeting held on October 1, 1981. Fifteen Alumni members attended and helped push this program through. The voters approved a $200,000 bond issue which is the last leg in meeting the final requirement for the planned new facility.

Careful planning and many long hours were put in by Alumni members on the building committee. These included Chairman James Helena, William Morehouse, Katy Kasek, Mark Tollman and Norman Skaats.

The new structure, which will be out for bid soon, has a windowless brick north wall partially covered with an earthen bank to conserve energy. The 24-foot by 48-foot greenhouse is all carbonate glaze with a south side slope to catch the maximum amount of sun. The greenhouse will be completely funded by a $200,000 grant from the State Bureau of Vocational Agriculture's Division of Vocational and Adult Education.

The facility will be able to accommodate about 30 more students than the 86 currently enrolled. *(John Cecchini)*

ENTERTAINMENT TRACTORS

Since 1972, the Saint Vrain Valley, Colorado, Chapter has held a tractor pull for the people with "tractor-fever" to attend.

The first tractor pull was held at a local sugar beet dump in Longmont. This was a big challenge for the FFA members and helped more of the members become active. Therefore, FFA held another the next year at their local fairgrounds.

Today, the tractor pull is an annual activity for both the local farmers and FFA'ers. They have improved it by moving the activity to a new fairground in Boulder

(Continued on Page 46)

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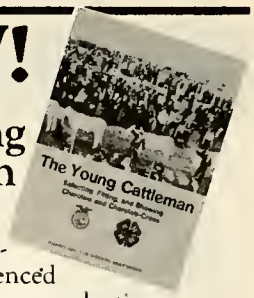

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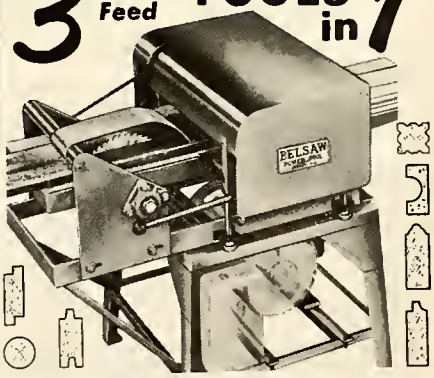

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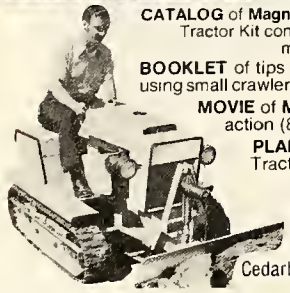

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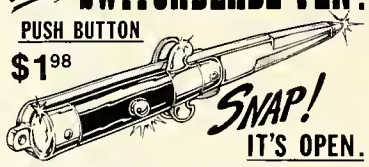

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	2. Mail subscriptions	497,177	512,331
C.	Total Paid Circulation	497,177	512,331
D.	Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means. Samples, complimentary and other free copies	1,636	1,592
E.	Total distribution	498,813	513,923
F.	Copies not distributed.		
	1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	2,718	2,321
	2. Return from news agents	None	None
G.	Total	501,531	516,244

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

WILSON W. CARNES, Editor

FFA IN ACTION

Pick up ACTION from Page 45)

County and building a scales there for the weigh-in of the tractors.

It is run by the FFA'ers and friends of this FFA chapter. Tractors are now pulled in the areas of hot rods, mini-hot rods, garden tractors and farm tractors.

LEARNING BY BUILDING

The Fairview, Ohio, FFA is in the process of building a storage barn, 24-foot by 32-foot, on the school grounds. The building cost is estimated at $3,000 with FFA donating $1,000 plus all the labor. The athletic department and the school board each donated $1,000 also.

The building will be used for storing school equipment, sports equipment, and many things from the vocational agriculture shop which had previously been left in the way or outside. *(Tom Poulson, Reporter)*

TOURS TO THE MARKETPLACE

The Fredericktown, Ohio, FFA junior and senior classes recently traveled to Chicago for a marketing trip. Students participating were Scott Armstrong, Richard Baxter, Brad Cunningham, Todd Hazen, Phil Spearman, Stan Stauffer, George Thiel, Jim Colopy, Chris Daniels, Rick Fry, Missy Earnest, Jeff Gaddis, Kim Hathaway, Rob Johnson, Ken Levering, Mark Overholt and Tom Tenney. Parents going were Paul Fry, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Tenny, Mr. and Mrs. Rick Armstrong and Alan Earnest along with Advisor Dan Humphrey.

The class left early Saturday morning and arrived in Chicago about 3:00 that afternoon and toured Field's Museum of National History and Shedd's Aquarium. In the evening the class ate $12 steaks at McCormick Place (fortunately the FFA paid for this) and then went to the theater (also paid for by FFA).

Sunday morning the class visited the Sidewalk Markets of Maxwell Street. It was an experience that none of us will ever forget. After Maxwell Street, the group went to Moody Memorial Church, which seats 4,000 people.

Monday morning we went to Chicago's Mercantile Exchange. Mr. Humphrey, Mrs. and Mrs. Tenney and Stan Stauffer were able to go on the floor of exchange. Later that morning we went to Chicago's Board of Trade. At the exchange, Mr. Humphrey, Ken Levering and Tom Tenney went on the bidding floor. That afternoon the class was the guest of Tex Levering, a commodities broker for Staley. Mr. Levering talked of marketing strategy and what his company does. *(Stan Stauffer, Reporter)*

FACTS FOR ACTION
STOP A THIEF

In the "good old days" a farmer could go away for a day and be confident that his unlocked barns and tool shed would not be disturbed. Theft in rural areas was practically unheard of.

Not so today, however. Tools and equipment valued at hundreds and even thousands of dollars in tool sheds and other farm buildings are tempting targets for thieves.

The most obvious security measure, of course, is a good padlock and hasp. Master Lock Company recommends a pin tumbler lock, distinguished by its key, which is flat and smooth on one edge with irregular serrations along the other edge. It is sturdier and more resistant to prying than other padlocks.

For added security, you should look for the words "hardened" or "case hard" stamped on the curved shackle. This means the shackle has been treated to give it an extra-hard outer layer to resist cutting or sawing, while the tough inner core remains malleable (not brittle) so it will resist breaking if hammered on by would-be thieves.

The hasp on the door must be as strong as the lock itself. Even the finest lock affords little protection if burglars find it hung from an undersized or unhardened hasp that they can cut with ease.

A case hardened, weather resistant hasp with concealed screws and a pinless hinge will make it more difficult for a thief to break in. When mounting the hasp make certain it is screwed into solid wood at least as deep as the screws are long, or in the case of metal doors, bolted securely.

For extra convenience, "hasplocks" are available. Here, the lock and hasp are one—permanently joined so the padlock cannot be misplaced while the hasp is swinging free. These are easy to install and available in most hardware stores.

A good hasp and padlock will keep tool sheds or other doors secure. Hasp and padlock should be case hardened to resist saws and bolt cutters. The hasp's screws should be concealed and hinge should be of the pinless variety.

Each contestant tried their "hand" in the milking contest.

THE ENTERTAINMENT

Horticulture officers of Belen, New Mexico, Chapter came up with a unique entertainment program for the November chapter meeting. The idea called for a member of each class (freshman, sophomore, junior and senior) to compete in milking a goat.

Everyone enjoyed the competition which was won by Jason Carrao for getting the most milk in ten seconds. The goat was brought in by Tinka Courtney.

This kind of entertainment gimmick is used to encourage members to attend FFA meetings and it works well.

The meeting also included awarding of Chapter Farmer degrees to 45 members, plus a report of the national convention by Robert Chavez, chapter president.

Lisa Hendrick, chapter sweetheart, served the traditional Thanksgiving pumpkin pie for refreshment. *(John Storey, Reporter)*

DO IT YOURSELF TRAINING

The James Wood FFA Chapter of Winchester, Virginia, held a chapter leadership camp for their officer team at The Summit, a closed residential area. Fifteen people attended the weekend affair which took several weeks of planning. The purpose of the camp was to develop and encourage fellowship and respect among the fellow officers and advisors to begin the year with a well organized chapter.

Each of the six officers and their assistants had to prepare a one-hour class on a subject of their choice and present it to the rest of the group. The officers taught classes on parliamentary procedure, public speaking, public relations, FFA history and the duties of an FFA officer. Each group also chose a meal which would be easy to prepare with very little cost. After the meal, the two officers would be responsible for cleaning up.

The group also had volleyball, football, boating, fishing and board games available for recreation.

The weekend ended with awards being presented to the officers and advisors for their contributions to the conference.

If your chapter plans an activity such as ours, here are some points to keep in mind:

1) Plan ahead for food, housing and extra activities.

2) Limit distractions such as TV, phones and homework.

3) Keep meals simple but plentiful. Precooked foods such as cakes, pies, breads and cookies (brought from home) and fruits will aid in meal planning.

4) Don't overplan the time schedule because sports and classes will be hard to keep within a time limit.

5) Take a lot of pictures and tape various activities. A slide show at the chapter meeting will inform members what you have learned.

6) End the weekend on a happy note. Activities such as awards, devotions and general discussions help bring the weekend all together.

7) Send thank-you notes to those people who contributed to the weekend, especially mothers who sent food.

8) Don't let the enthusiasm from the weekend die during the rest of the year. This is an excellent chance to get all the officers working together as a team.

Any chapter who is interested in more information may contact Mr. Robert Sutphin, James Wood High School, Route 5, Box 700, Winchester, VA 22601. *(Kim Lineberry, Reporter)*

LIVE IN HERDSMEN

The Skiatook, Oklahoma, Chapter, as an annual project, takes care of the Children's Barnyard during the Tulsa State Fair for six days and nights.

Members alternate days and nights and take care of the animals on exhibit. They are to feed, water, exercise and clean each animal's pen twice a day and be on hand to show the animals and answer any questions fairgoers might have concerning the animals and their care.

The members sleep in the back of the barn at night, with their advisors Mike Earp and Larry Meeks as chaperones. *(Jackie Jones, Reporter)*

ACTION LINES

- Learn to spell congratulations.
- Color Easter eggs this year.
- Put a hanging basket of red petunias in the tree branch outside grandma's bedroom window.
- Say "Hi" and introduce yourself to someone you don't know at church.
- Record your thoughts each day in the margin of the front page of the newspaper. Save 'em.
- Recommend cheese and crackers be added to the list of concession stand items.
- Give out 3x5 cards to make notes on during meetings.
- You be the lawn care service (free) for the advisor.
- Put *National FUTURE FARMER* magazines in the barbershop.
- Put zucchini in the next tossed salad you fix.
- Make your own Valentines.
- Make extra money by selling firewood you cut.
- Bring all your little brother's electronic games to the party.

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The mythical country of Boruvia has a law requiring all babies to be named within an hour after birth. One day a woman was rushed to the hospital where she delivered twins. At the same time, her husband was rushed to the hospital unconscious with a head injury received on the job. When the man came to, he was informed that his wife had delivered a boy and a girl two hours before, and his brother had named them.

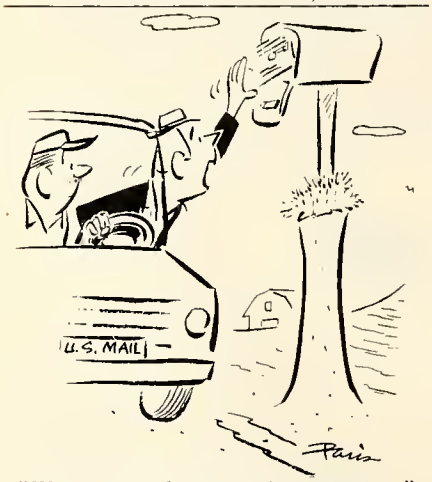
"Oh, no, not my brother," groaned the man. *"He's such a practical joker. What did he name them?"*

"He named the girl Denise."

"Oh, I like that," said the man, obviously relieved. *"What did he name the boy?"*

"Denephew."

Mark Grove
Forest Lake, Minnesota



"Worst case of erosion I've ever seen."

A man ran up to the ticket window just as the commuuer train pulled out.

"That's my train," he panted to the clerk, *"If I run, can I catch it?"*

"Mister," said the clerk, *"if you run, you can beat it.!"*

Gene Wade
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Have you heard a good joke lately? The Joke Page is the place to share it. Let fellow Future Farmers have a laugh on you. Beginning with this issue, we pay $5.00 for each joke which we select to use on The Joke Page. Send them in letters, on postcards, on the back of permission slips, or written on a sales slip. It's no longer mandatory to use only a postcard. Whatever way you send them, be sure the editors can read them, especially your name and address. And be sure they're funny.

The Smiths invited the boss over for supper. After he arrived he asked their young son what was for supper. The boy replied *"Buzzard. I heard my mommy tell my daddy we might as well have that old buzzard for supper tonight as any other night."*

Rodney Shanks
Sebree, Kentucky

There was this king of an island and he was very proud of his throne. And one day the war broke out, so he took his throne and put it in the attic of his grass hut. When he walked back down it fell through and killed him. Moral: People who live in grass huts shouldn't store thrones.

Billy Chasteen
Eustace, Texas

There were two guys named Pete and Paul. They loved baseball. Also they were real good Christians. One day they were wondering if there was baseball in heaven. So to settle the question, they decided if one of them should die he would come back and tell the other one. A year later, Paul died. A couple of days later Paul came back to Pete. Pete asked, *"Well, is there baseball in heaven?"*

Paul said, *"Yes, and you're pitching on Saturday."*

Luke Tentoni
Caledonia, Mississippi

One day a frog walked into a bank to get a loan. He walked up to the teller, who was named Ms. Patricia Wack, and said, *"Could I have a loan?"* Ms. Wack replied, *"Yes, you may have a loan, but what do you have for collateral?"*

"I brought my collateral," the frog said as he handed Ms. Wack a brown paper bag. She opened it but couldn't figure out what it was. *"I'll be right back,"* she said. She took the bag to the manager. *"Sir, what is this little tiny plastic dog?"* she said, *"there's a frog out there who wants a loan and he says this is his collateral."*

The manager looked in the bag and replied, *"It's a knick-knack, Patty Wack, give the frog a loan."*

David Tammen
Danforth, Illinois

Once there was a policeman who had not given anyone a ticket all day. So he saw a car and decided he would follow it for ten miles. But the driver never did make a mistake. So the policeman pulled the driver over, *"Sir, I've just got to tell you how well you drive."*

The man replied, *"Well, you've got to watch how you drive when your license is expired."*

Ronda Porter
Longbranch, Texas

Charlie, the Greenhand

"Too effective, they scare the plants, too!"

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